

Disability Now

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Congratulations! Swimmer Robin Surgeoner – four golds, four world records – proudly sports his share of Britain's 62 gold medals from Seoul. See pages 10-11.

DAVID HARDEN

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Disabled people are poor

It is now official. Disabled people have on average lower incomes than the rest of the population. They are less likely to have a job and if they do work they tend to earn less money.

Three-quarters of them rely on benefits as their main source of income.

Nearly three-quarters have additional expenditure as a result of their disability and nearly a quarter think they need to spend more on this but cannot afford to do so.

Two-thirds said they were "getting into difficulties" with money or "just getting by".

These are the findings of the second (of six) reports by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, commissioned by the DHSS, about people with disabilities in Great Britain. This one dealt with the financial circumstances of disabled adults in private households, an estimated 5.8 million.

The survey was done in 1985, before various changes in social security benefits including the shake-up last April, so the cash figures are already out of date.

But disability organisations argue that a million disabled

Government challenged on arts access

The Carnegie Council, set up to campaign for access to the arts for disabled people, has pledged £250,000 to fund adaptations to arts venues – if a similar amount is pledged by private companies and the Government makes a "substantial contribution" to the fund.

The announcement came last month at the launch of a review which deplores the lack of government response to the recommendations of Sir Richard Attenborough's *Arts and Disabled People*, published three years ago.

"What a tragedy and what a scandal that there has been no money from the Government," said Sir Richard Attenborough at the launch meeting.

"We would like to lay down a challenge – the Carnegie Council will offer £250,000 to establish an adaptations fund if a similar amount can be raised from commerce and trusts and with the absolute promise that the Government contributes".

The review, the result of the Carnegie Council's two-year brief to monitor access to the arts, shows how government departments, arts agencies, statutory and voluntary bodies have responded to the recommendations in the Attenborough report.

Despite some positive developments, the overall picture is one of stagnation, particularly within government departments.

It concludes: "It is a sad reflection that most of the Atten-

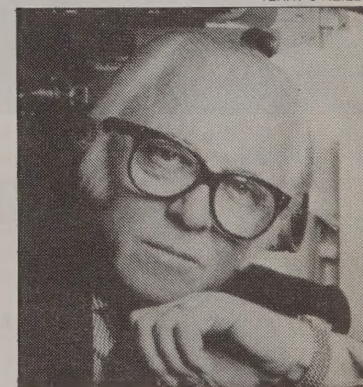
borough recommendations directed at Government remain unimplemented, or, at best, implemented only in part".

The review proposes that designated officers for people with disabilities should be appointed to bodies such as the Crafts Council and the Museums and Galleries Commission and Arts Council grants should be conditional on accessibility.

The Carnegie Council, chaired by Sir Kenneth Robinson, was made up of ten leading figures in the arts world.

After Attenborough, Bedford Square Press, £5.95.

TERRY O'NEILL



Richard Attenborough

Speech therapy victory

A High Court decreed last month that the local education authority of a nine-year-old boy with a speech defect must provide him with intensive speech therapy.

At present, Christopher Muller only gets 30 minutes of therapy a week from the district health authority. Now Lancashire County Council must provide him with four half-hour sessions per week.

The council originally assessed Christopher as having an educational need for therapy. It later decided that the therapy was non-educational and refused to provide it.

But two judges dismissed their claims and ruled that their original assessment must stand.

They said the education authority must assess each case individually. If it decides the need is educational, it has a duty to provide the therapy under the 1981 Education Act.

Prior to this test case, many children failed to get enough speech therapy because neither the education nor the health authority would claim responsibility for it.

Moirá Noble of the Association of Speech Impaired Children said the ruling could affect up to 250,000 children.

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Name _____ Address _____

Disabled people are poor

continued from page 1

people are worse off now than they were before.

The report was published the day after the Parliamentary session ended, to the annoyance of the umbrella group Disability Alliance, who wanted a Parliamentary discussion.

But the report does fuel their argument for a comprehensive disability income.

"I think we have to look at that", said Minister for the Disabled Nicholas Scott on BBC Radio on 15 November. "I certainly think there is a strong argument in favour of it. The costs, an extra £3 billion, would obviously be a factor."

The Minister also confirmed, in the wake of the Chancellor's comments, that he had no plans to make benefits like mobility or

attendance allowance means-tested. "In the area of disability, universal benefits have been the pattern."

The OPCS report revealed that the average net income for disabled adults (excluding housing benefit) was £82.20 a week. Only 31 per cent of disabled adults under pensionable age were in work. Additional expenditure (for fuel, clothing, travel, etc) had been incurred by 71 per cent of disabled adults.

However, while disabled non-pensioners had much less to spend than non-pensioners as a whole once the expenses of their disability were subtracted, the gap between disabled pensioners and all pensioners narrowed to £10.

Financial Circumstances of Disabled Adults Living in Private Households, HMSO £11.50.



IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF LORDS

Charges for eye and teeth checks go ahead

The House of Lords has voted to accept a £10 charge for eye tests, under the Government's Health and Medicines Bill.

Before the summer recess, charges for dental and eye examinations were agreed by the Commons and then thrown out, by a majority of 26, in the Lords.

On 1 November the charges were re-instated in the Com-

mons but with a Government majority of only 8.

Peers accepted a ruling that they were barred from blocking dental charges but there was a second attempt to throw out eye test charges by Tory peer, Lord Cullen of Ashbourne.

Lord Denham, the Tory Chief Whip, secured the third highest turn out of peers this century to squash the opposition by 257 votes to 207, a Government majority of 50. The record attendance was achieved by the Government bringing in its backwoods, hereditary peers who rarely vote in the Lords.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Benefits uprated — except child benefit

Making the annual announcement about uprating benefits on



Whitbread 1988 Community Care Award winner, Thomas Glasgow, received £1,000 and a plaque from Chris Milne of Whitbread South West. One of five disabled winners out of a total of fifteen, Tom has campaigned to improve access in the Solihull area, and beyond. Restaurants now have menus in braille and cutlery for arthritic people because of his efforts.

27 October, Secretary of State for Social Services, John Moore said all benefits will rise by 5.9 per cent in line with inflation, with effect from April 1989.

This means, for example, that the single pension will rise from £41.15 to £43.60, a rise of £2.45 a week.

An extra £5 million is to be given to Motability, while the age limit for Mobility Allowance will rise from 75 to 80.

But this news was offset by the announcement that child benefit is to be frozen at £7.25, for the second successive year. This will save the Government £206 million of which only £70 million is going back into family credit and income support.

Robin Cook, the Shadow Social Security Secretary accused the Secretary of State of "pocketing £136 million at the expense of child support in Britain".

Housing Benefit reductions

In response to a written Parliamentary Question following the benefit increases, John Moore announced a flat rate reduction of £2 per week in housing benefit transitional payments from next April.

Most claimants would be better off because the uprating of benefits in April would be worth more than £2 a week to them.

For people dependent on benefits who will experience a cash loss, "special arrangements", yet to be detailed, will be made to protect them, he said.

Social Fund Freeze

In another written reply Peter Lloyd, junior Social Security Minister, announced a freeze on the amount of money in the social fund. He said that in spite of low take-up, "the total sum available for payments from the social fund in 1989/90 will be the same as for 1988/89".

Kate Nash

Information on Early Day Motions and other parliamentary processes will appear next month.

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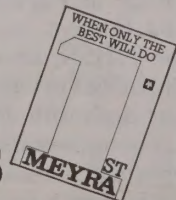


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IN BRIEF

Technical centre opens

The keys to the first purpose-built technical centre at a residential college for disabled students were handed over at Portland College last month.

The £400,000 centre will give students aged 16-55 from all over the UK the chance to learn a range of skills from computing and business studies to clock-making and engineering.

Seventy per cent of the £400,000 came from the now-defunct MSC, the rest from private donation.

The college hopes to raise £1.2m next year to further extend facilities for its 200 students.

Star services

SOS (the Stars Organisation for Spastics) has launched a campaign to sell the services of its star members to big companies looking for publicity. More than 300 stars from stage, screen, radio and TV will give sparkle to a public "do" in return for contributions to SOS's work with pre-school children and adults. Already SOS has worked with House of Fraser, Eden Vale, Cellnet and Monopoly.

Schools Design Prize

Oliver Gaiger, 16, from Uppingham School in Leicester, was a winner in the Schools Design Prize competition, organised by the Design Council. He designed a sound system that fits onto a child's wheelchair and encourages him to sit up straight and not slump.



PHAB artists

Maud Bullen, 84 and Lily Dodds, 75 who are both disabled, were among the winners of the PHAB (Physically Handicapped and Able-Bodied) summer art competition last month.

They were presented with their prizes of holiday vouchers by Lord Snowdon (patron of PHAB) and actress Jane Asher.

Award for blind authors

Aileen Armitage, who became a bestselling author after going blind 26 years ago, won the Woman of the Year Frink award for achievement last month. The award lunch raised over £50,000 for the Greater London Fund for the Blind.

£1.25m for Kings Fund

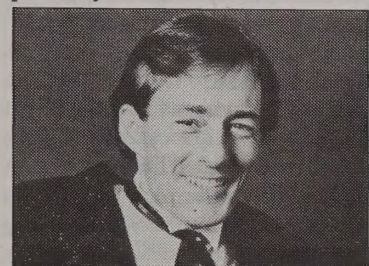
The Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts have made a grant to the Kings Fund Centre of £1.25 million over three years to set up a communications unit.

Not a laughing matter

A disabled Essex comedian, who used the Enterprise Allowance Scheme to give his career a boost, has had a setback. His "big break" – supporting cockney comedian Jim Davidson – was cancelled at the last moment.

"I was really gutted," said Brian Knight, 30, when Bob Wheatley, manager of the Circus Tavern, Purfleet, axed him from the show only minutes before the curtain went up.

"One hundred and fifty friends and relatives had paid £18 a head to see me, but when Thames TV news decided not to film me, I was dropped. All Bob Wheatley wanted from me was publicity."



Brian Knight

Jim Davidson is still keen to give Brian his break. If the performance had gone well, he had been promised further work.

Brian had a tough apprenticeship in comedy: three years playing the gruelling pub and talent show circuit.

"I used to get a lot of heckling about my disability (he has scoliosis or curvature of the spine). It was hard at first, but I've learned to give as good as I get." In August, he convinced the Department of Social Security that he should qualify for a £40 enterprise allowance.

Brian has featured in *Chat* and *Plus* magazines, and on LWT, TVS and Anglian TV.



Easy does it: Mary McCabe-Neil of the City Access Group tests facilities at the new Bank of England Museum. The museum is to buy a Simson lift and act on other suggestions of the group.

NEIL TURNER/INSIGHT

Social Services Conference

Mellor positive on Griffiths

New Health Minister David Mellor said he was personally sympathetic to the Griffiths approach to community care at the annual social services conference in Newcastle-upon-Tyne at the end of October.

He said the Government had not ruled out anything so far, and urged social services departments to go ahead and put into action the Griffiths proposals in their power.

This includes more formal contracts with voluntary organisations to provide care, and making joint plans for local care with health authorities and the voluntary sector.

The Association of Directors of Social Services launched their own three-year plan to put Griffiths into action on the first day of the conference.

The plan, which has been put

to the Government, includes creating a Community Care Development Agency, to exist for 10 years while the system is set up; appointing a Minister for community care; and measures to ensure that NHS money previously spent on long-stay care will be spent in the community.

The Royal National Institute for the Deaf launched a major survey of social service provision for deaf people at the conference which reveals that numbers of social workers working with deaf people has fallen by about 10,000 in the past ten years and 14 local authorities have no specialist service for deaf people.

Hot off the airways

An electronic newspaper, which enables people who are blind to "read" it in full and in any order they like, has won the 1988 Institution of Electronic Engineers Prize for Helping Disabled People.

Nicholas Scott, Minister for the Disabled, presented a £6,000 cheque to its Swedish inventor, Henryk Rubinstein, in an award ceremony at the IEE headquarters last month.

Thirty-six blind people are "reading" the *Gothenburg Post* daily, Sweden's second largest local paper.

The full text of the *Post* is taken from the composers computer and transmitted via the radio network at night when ordinary broadcasting is off the air. The transmission only takes a few minutes and is picked up and stored by computers in the homes of blind subscribers.

These computers are equipped with speech synthesisers or braille displays. A flexible read and search structure means readers can leaf through the paper or jump around quickly, from news to job adverts, or features to sport. It is this fullness and

flexibility, its inventor believes, which makes it superior to taped newspapers.

At present the computers cost around £3,000 but Henryk Rubinstein hopes the price will fall as more subscribers join. The scheme is being financed by the Swedish government.

Any newspaper which uses modern technology can be distributed in this way and the RNIB says it is investigating its use in the UK.

The IEE award is presented every three years.



Henryk Rubinstein

The human face of policies

A video and a report on community care were launched last month by CMH, the organisation for people with learning difficulties.

The report, *An Ordinary Day*, recounts one day in the lives of various people with learning difficulties.

It aims to put a human face on the policy discussion surround-

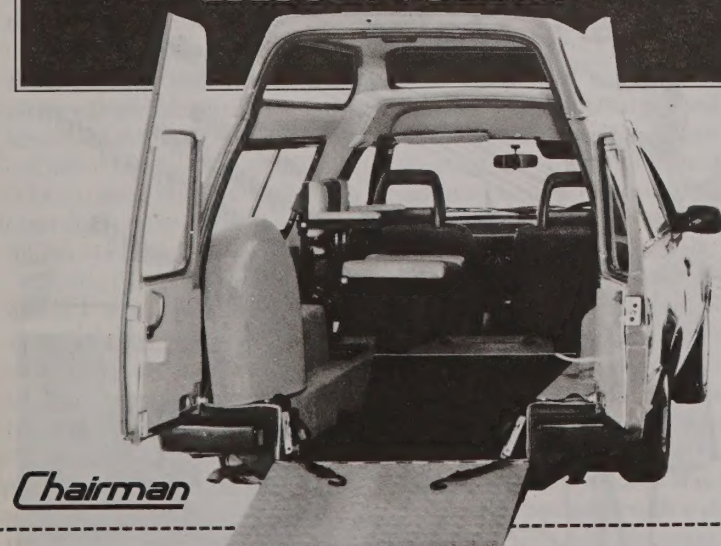
ing community care.

The video, *Regular Lives*, shows disabled American children in mainstream schools.

CMH will lobby the BBC and ITV to show it.

An Ordinary Day (£3.75) and *Regular Lives* (£40, VHS only) are available from CMH Publications, 5 Kentings, Comberton, CB3 7DT.

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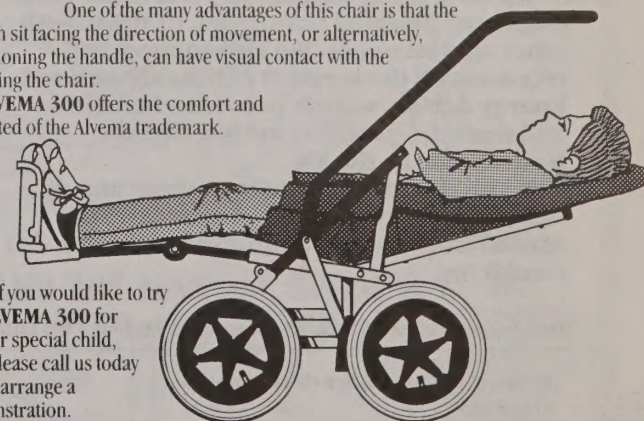
Disability Now

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Letters to the Editor

Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

Same problems

I was glad to see you highlight in the November issue of *Disability Now* the way in which the Government is appearing to suggest that disability should be considered "normal" once one becomes of pensionable age.

The reality is that the majority of the elderly are not disabled.

Those that are face the same difficulties faced by disabled people whether they are 17 or 71. This is particularly important to people with arthritis, who often need to purchase aids and equipment to enable them to undertake the everyday tasks that present no problem to the majority of elderly people.

Compare the price of cutlery for ordinary use and cutlery for those with hands affected by

rheumatoid arthritis, for example.

Jean Gaffin
Chief Executive
Arthritis Care
London SW1

Brain-damage: parents' struggle

How I wholeheartedly agree with the report "NHS fails brain-damaged people" (*DN* July). The fault is not that people do not care but lack of expertise and resources.

We have had personal experience with our son Matthew, now aged 13½, who was brain-damaged in a road accident when he was 4½.

We have had 9 years of struggle both financially and also to obtain the best medically and

educationally for him. These both fell far short of ideal.

The needs and rehabilitation of people with brain damage are very complex and you cannot slot someone into a unit designed for other handicaps.

We were given no hope at all for our son and very little practical help and information in the beginning. The only two rays of hope came from the staff of The Spastics Society at Fitzroy Square and a social worker at Great Ormond Street Hospital.

I have written a booklet about the last 9 years of rehabilitating our son. It contains not only practical information but an honest account of the guilt, anger, frustration and all the other stresses the whole family faces in this kind of situation.

I am trying to get it published as I feel it could help other families in a similar situation.

I would be very interested to hear from any publisher willing to at least read it for me.

I would be willing in the meantime to send a rough photo-copied edition to anyone sending me a large SAE and £2 to cover

(sic)

Suggestive remarks

Slash NHS costs and help patients – it sounds like an Edwina Currie dream come true. A survey at St Thomas's Hospital, London, provides new evidence of the power of the mind to heal the body. Women undergoing hysterectomies who were played "therapeutic suggestions" through headphones during the operation recovered more quickly than patients who were not played the tapes. On average, the women who heard suggestions such as "You will not feel sick, you will not have any pain" left hospital 1.5 days earlier.

Electro-crooner

Do You See Me As An Equal? is the title of a more traditional, though still unusual, tape recording by disabled American songwriter Jeff Moyer. It includes *My Voice Has Wings*, an anthem on behalf of people denied speech by physical disability, sung by a TouchTalker electronic speech machine. Wonderful idea, but a little schmalzy in practice, I fear: "There are walls of solid granite, there are walls of brick and steel, there are walls that people build inside, that hide the way they feel...etc". Still interested? Available from Music from the Heart, 670 Radford Drive, Highland Hts, OH 44143, USA, price \$8.95 inc p&p.

Scrumpy victim

Norman Croucher lost both his legs below the knee at the age of 19, but has climbed mountains all over the world and has walked from Lands End to John O'Groats for charity. One of his mountaineering sponsors is a Cornish scrumpy brewer whose motto is "legless but smiling".

Julian Marshall

photo-copying and any additional postage.

Mrs Denise Graham
7 Willoughby Close
Alton, Hants GU34 2BE

Driving assessment...

I am writing to advise you of our Disabled Drivers Voluntary Advisory Service, after reading your survey in *Disability Now*, October.

Although our service has been running for 3 years, it was not included in your article. It is the only one in the North West and we have 3 qualified instructors and offer free driving assessments to any disabled person.

We have an adapted car with dual controls and private ground for test-drives. A 20-minute supervised session costs £2. We also offer advice on suitable vehicles, adaptations, fitters and helpful garages.

So far we have helped well over 200 people and our next aim is to find permanent premises so that we can offer a daily service.

Margaret Roden
18 The Roods
Warton, Lancs LA5 9QG

Apologies to Ms Roden for unwittingly omitting this driving assessment centre from the DN survey; also to Sherrards, which offers free driving assessments, has a driving instructor and modified car, for omitting theirs too. Sherrards Industrial Training Centre, Digswell Hill, Welwyn, Herts AL6 9AW, tel: (07073) 35231. Are there any others? Editor

...objection

With reference to your survey report on driving centres, I feel I must reply to Roy Dredge's comments (*DN*, October).

This does not accurately describe our present operations and makes no mention at all of the new and exciting

developments commencing shortly here in Middlesbrough to serve the North East.

Cleveland Disabled Drivers Centre was launched only 18 months ago by CE-DEMP, an organisation working for disabled people in Cleveland, to fill a need in the area.

This was to be done in two stages: first of all a vehicle conversion unit and later a test track and assessment project for which we have now secured a 3 acre site. It was the vehicle conversion unit that your reporter visited, and whilst we accept some criticism, I can assure you that we do not drag clients up flights of stairs, or just give information.

Hundreds of disabled people are now mobile that otherwise may not have been had we waited until we had all the necessary funding and everything else just right. We started with a practical approach and although this may not be *Disability Now's* order of priority, it was and still is ours.

William A Hall
Technical Manager CE-DEMP Services
Cleveland Disabled Drivers Centre, Middlesbrough

Too late

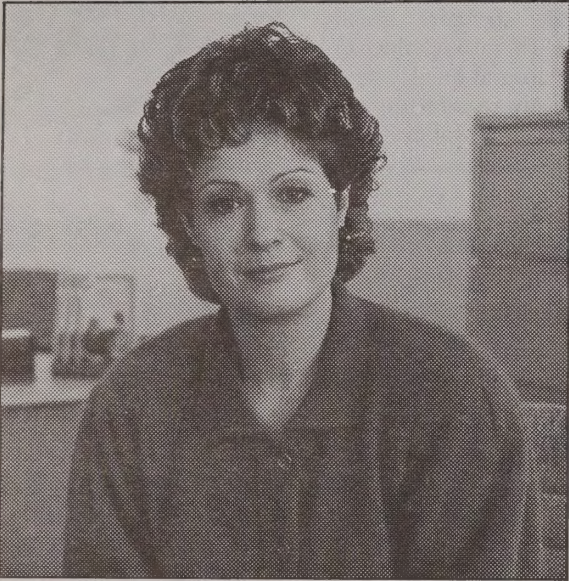
I attended the "Rights not Charity" march featured on *Open Space* on 13 October.

I thought the programme was fair and realistic in the way it assessed the problems and needs of disabled people today.

However, in my opinion the documentary is too late to help those protesting to obtain their needs.

The programme did not exactly fill me with optimism, having just turned 16. It seems I will have to struggle to gain independence. Surely this is not right.

Keith Roads
Taverham, Norwich



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PATS. PENDING

A Tory MP speaks out on the need for action on community care

"We need a bolder approach"

I want to repeat some of the points made about community care to the Tory Reform Group in June and also to draw on comment and research which has appeared since the Griffiths Report.

1 Community care touches now or will touch almost every family in the land. It is emphatically not a minority interest. For example, there are reckoned to be, hidden away below the surface of society, some 6 million carers.

2 We need to develop much better mechanisms for involving individuals in their own care choices. Those local authorities, for example, who fail for ideological reasons to inform clients about the private sector are disgraceful.

3 Mindful of consumer choice and the findings of Griffiths and the Audit Commission that we spend disproportionately on long term residential care (the cost increased by over £200 million last year), we have to develop everywhere a flexible mix of provision which allows individuals to buy a package of services and keep control over all, or nearly all, of

their own lives. No such packages could be created on a large scale without public, private and voluntary provision.

4 We have to look very seriously at strategies which postpone dependency for elderly and physically handicapped people. If builders of houses were required or bribed to build houses with wider door lintels, better placed services and ramps instead of steps, hundreds of thousands of families would function more efficiently. Those who need specially adapted houses would not have to be uprooted to join others in a home where the only common link may be their disability.

5 We need to have a much clearer and bolder strategy for using volunteers.

Most community care is delivered by unpaid carers, who feel bound to their task by family ties. Yet there has never been a time when there have been more active people with time and resources to spare.

Professionals who have had the courage to deploy volunteers have found that they could extend their professional reach and

enhance their professional role.

Moreover well-informed and well-supported volunteers can act as advocates for clients and for services in ways and through channels which are closed to pro-

"We have to look very seriously at strategies which postpone dependency for elderly and physically handicapped people"

fessionals. If we could attach, by mutual agreement, volunteers to every patient discharged from a long stay hospital, would there be quite so many lost "underneath the arches"?

6 We need a much bolder approach to the use of existing community assets. Some education authorities have made a deal with their social services colleagues by which under-used schools have housed day centres, training workshops and other facilities for handicapped, elderly or lonely people. Why so few?

In the Middle Ages, when the

church was the only community asset in so many communities, the building would be used for a mass of purposes which in our day are regarded as close to sacrilege.

There are practical difficulties, of course. Moveable chairs would need to replace immovable pews; screens would be needed to protect the sanctuary and lavatories would have to be installed.

But I should like to plead for a new campaign, called perhaps "Loos not Pews", which would enable churches all over the country to provide the space for which so many groups are clamouring, often in vain.

7 We must ensure that Griffiths' demand that everyone in need of care should have a budget attached to them is fulfilled and that a sensible and workable demarcation line is drawn between the health service and community care.

I suspect it is these two problems which are responsible for the long delay in the Government's response to the Griffiths report.

Griffiths rather touchingly suggested that the NHS had enough to do dealing with acute care, but he under-estimated the growing strength and expertise of general practice and the growing awareness that much of the need for care arises from unmet medical needs.

I suggested to the Tory Reform Group that perhaps the customer should choose between a care manager drawn from the NHS or the local authority and that until a transfer was formally arranged the customer would stay with their manager. The



Andrew Rowe, MP for mid-Kent and chairman of the all-party Parliamentary Panel on Personal Social Services, gave this (edited) speech at a fringe meeting arranged by voluntary organisations at the Conservative Party Conference in Brighton in October.

manager would be free to buy appropriate care from either service.

The Association of Directors of Social Services and the Joint Care Committee, representing the private residential care sector, both recommend an independent agency to run community care.

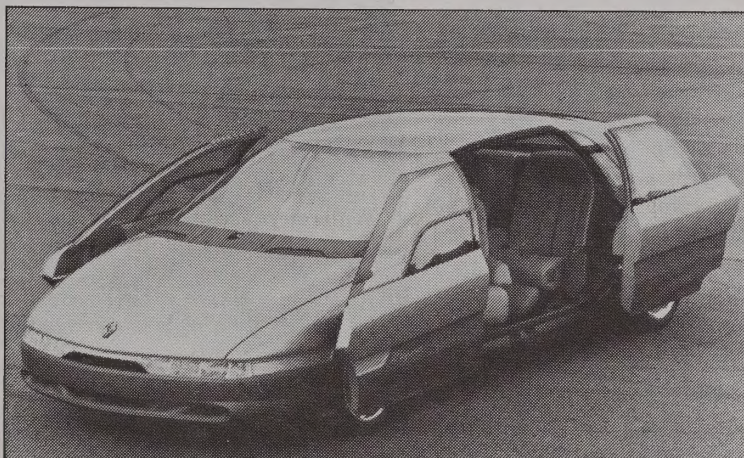
8 If we are to keep the demand for community care within limits we can afford, we have to find a way of redirecting some of the DSS's £7 billion budget and other subsidies in our subsidy-riddled society into better pensions for those on the basic pension.

Poverty generates demands for community care. The millions who have been and still are unemployed will enter old age with little chance of providing supplementary pensions for themselves. It is for us to try to ensure that they do not enter dependency on the day they receive their first pension payment.

MOTORING

Good value for £4

DN's motoring correspondent John Byworth visited Motor Show '88



The Renault Mégane – still just a designer's dream car.

Motor Show '88 was billed as the best ever and it certainly attracted the crowds.

The Birmingham National Exhibition Centre is noted for being accessible, but this time the car parking arrangements were the worst I have known – no indication of where the disabled car park was for drivers coming off the motorway, and for those who parked in a far-away car park an almost non-existent bus shuttle to the main building.

Nor was there an obvious disabled persons' entrance, so people in wheelchairs had to join the scrum for entrance tickets.

Once inside, however, the NEC comes into its own, with clear indicators showing the exhibitors in each hall.

All the major and some of the minor car producers had arranged their stands with a sloping floor giving access all round – a great improvement since the last show. Many manufacturers had information about their disabled driving schemes; they seem to be taking disabled drivers much more seriously.

Notable exceptions were manufacturers who think they are unlikely to sell a car to a disabled driver. It was impossible, for example, to see the new Aston Martin or the new Rolls Royce from a wheelchair because of the

high and very solid barrier. Ferrari had put low level cut-outs into their barrier but the view was blocked by able-bodied backs.

Most of the major manufacturers had a wide selection of

"Manufacturers seem to be taking disabled people much more seriously"

models for inspection and salesmen or women were happy to discuss the advantages or disadvantages of various options.

This service was ideal for a disabled driver who needs the automatic option but doesn't want all the other extras.

Ford has always taken the disabled driver seriously at this show and once again their outside stand offered their disabled driver programme.

The star of the stand was the transit van equipped with a side-loading ramp and steering by Steering Developments. It was a designer's dream come true of the ideal vehicle for someone in a wheelchair who wants to drive and perhaps, one day, offer a dial-a-ride or centre transport service to others. Technically,

it's now possible and given Government grants for getting people to work, it may some day become a reality.

The Mégane from Renault may just be a designer's dream, but if production cars were fitted with a rear sliding door and swivel front seat, a lot of disabled drivers would be very pleased.


The new Vauxhall Cavalier was the star of the show. In spite of all the well-publicised technical improvements, the interior remains basically the same, so all the adaptations on the old model should be available on the new one.

The automatic version is available under the Vauxhall Disabled Drivers Plan.

A lot of the cheaper, imported cars had good stands for browsing. Seat, Skoda, Lada and newcomer to Britain, the Proton, were all showing new or improved models which give real value for money.

My young friend, Terry, visiting his first Motor Show, was pleased to be able to sit in so many normal production cars.


Overall, good value for £4, he thought, though exhausting for someone with cp to see everything in one day.

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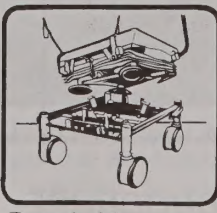


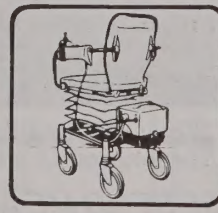
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The Spastics Society's 37th AGM at Imperial College, London, 5 November

Peto Institute to help Society Action agenda showing results.

The Peto Institute in Hungary is to help The Spastics Society develop its educational services for children, probably through staff training and help with curriculum development, the chairman announced at the AGM.

Meetings with Dr Maria Hari are planned this month and it is hoped to make an announcement in the New Year.

While Dr Hari confirmed on a recent visit that the Society does not practise conductive education as practised in Hungary, she praised elements of its work and the dedication of staff, said Douglas Shapland.

"The Spastics Society is in no doubt that conductive education as practised in Hungary should become an integral part of the special education services available to disabled children in this country," he added. "We both welcome and applaud the initiative taken by the Foundation in Birmingham."

The chairman's speech covered developments in the past year – how, for example, the Society has become a managing agency under the new Employment Training Programme with 520 places in 5 areas, and how the policy of moving people out of large residential units continues with the Kyre Park Project, which will rehouse about 38

people in flats and bungalows by 1992, at a cost of some £2.5m.

The "action agenda" he had unveiled at the last AGM was already showing results, said Douglas Shapland, and the task forces were producing proposals.

★ By the New Year, the Society will have a slimmed-down top management team in post.

★ There is to be a £15m fund-raising campaign.

★ Under policy agreed in May, another 60 people with disabilities are to be employed by the Society over the next year and the task force on employment is to propose ways of increasing employment training and opportunities for people with cp generally, not just those in the Society.

★ Proposals for reorganising the social work and therapy services in the community will be presented soon to the Executive Council, as will proposals for a more efficient information service and on the Society's name.

★ Communication within the Society has been improved by introducing a staff newsletter. Something similar will be made available for local groups.

The chairman had been told that the action agenda was a 5-year programme. "I shall do everything in my power to reduce that time scale," he promised.



The Duchess of Kent, the Society's patron, was at the AGM. She assured Liz Greeley that her question about the need for research into ageing and cp would be considered carefully.

DOUG MCKENZIE/PPS

New image and market strategy needed

"We need to change our image," Ken Young, the new chief executive, told the AGM. "There are people in this room who want change, fundamental change in values and beliefs, and there are people who don't."

He was explaining his "action projects" and his philosophy of management.

"Raising our profile is about not being ashamed of what we do," he argued. "This gathering today has been unique. Go to any county council or local authority and tell me where the consumer is as well represented. We have to be proud of that and build on it."

But the Society must find new ways of fundraising and it must sell itself and its skills better if it is to survive in the highly competitive charity field, he said.

It certainly should not be subsidising the public sector. "That's wrong and we need to get that message across in the right political quarters."

The Griffiths report, which puts the responsibility for community care on local authorities, presented opportunities for the Society, said Ken Young. Ninety-five per cent of community care needs are met by the family, and it is these people the Society serves and represents through its local groups.

The Society must persuade local and health authorities to work with it and create partnerships. "I hope to talk to every local authority, all the people who might benefit from our expertise," he promised.

The "give us more, pay us more" mentality had to be addressed, he said. Until the Society's cash flow improved, many things could not be achieved.

"Our organisation is at a cross-roads. A lot of our provision is not going to be useful in the next 20 years. People will expect and demand something different."

Young parents were already expressing their dissatisfaction with their feet. "Unless we get the relationship right with local groups, we haven't got a future. One of my key objectives will be to support and develop initiatives with local groups."

His action points included strengthening the Society's advocacy role. Advocacy was written into the Disabled Persons Act 1986. "We have got to fight hard for that legislation to be implemented and paid for," he said.



Ken Young with founder-member Alex Moira.

He also talked of the rapid and accurate diagnosis of cp, community housing for cp people, special education, developing and using technology and changing attitudes.

Many of his objectives, he hoped, would be achieved over the 12 twelve months.

£1.5m deficit, with subsidy to councils increased

The Spastics Society had another deficit, £1.5m, in 1987-88, reported the Honorary Treasurer Bill Huddleston.

Although the net income for the Society's shops increased by 23 per cent last year and regional appeals by nearly 52 per cent, expenditure on regional services rose by 38 per cent and on the Society's schools and centres by seven per cent.

"Fees and grants from statutory authorities for the services provided to them in our schools and centres once more failed to cover the cost of these services," said Bill Huddleston. "In effect we increased our subsidy to the statutory authorities by 16 per cent. This cannot be right."

The Society could not balance its books out of plentiful assets, he added. "I want this year to debunk once and for all the myth that The Spastics Society is a rich society."

It is rich in skills, experience, its pioneering history, the goodwill it has generated over the years and in its staff and volunteers, he said. But whereas in 1980 it had enough funds to last nearly eight months, now it has funds for only three.

"Over the last eight years we have had deficits totalling £8m, and if it had not been for windfall receipts in the form of profits on the sale of properties and investments, we would have had to shut up shop and go home."

To tackle the problem, the Society is exploring joint funding opportunities and better ways of using its land and property. A major fundraising campaign is planned.



BBC Radio 2 disc jockey Adrian Love, vice-president of SOS (left) and a guest speaker, meets the Long family from Thamesdown. Doug Shapland steers the chair.

Task force chairmen report

The Society's name. Dr Ron Firman elicited some audience participation when he came down on the side of a change, but not yet. Some people wanted a different name now.

Proposals, yet to be formally accepted by the Executive Council, include: no decision to be taken until issues of management and philosophy have been sorted out; there should be a Cerebral Palsy Helpline; the word "spastic" should be avoided except where technically necessary, and "cerebral palsy" used instead.

Information, advice and communication. David Hendon reported that a survey had found information services "frag-

mented, uncoordinated and under-resourced".

His task force will recommend making information and advice a priority, investing in technology and amalgamating existing resources into a central information service for regions to use. A regional pilot, if agreed, would start early next year.

Local social work and therapy services provision is a "hotch-potch" said Betty Fisher. "There is an acute need for local points of contact". Her task force will recommend that the roles of development officer and social worker be combined, a team approach in each area and a pilot scheme.

Employment (see chairman).



New member of the Executive Council, Anne Davis, right, with re-elected members, from left, Eileen Milnes, Jan Hildreth, Valerie Lang and Derek Ashcroft. Valerie Lang, a guest speaker, talked of the different interests represented on the Council.

John Byworth, a well-known figure on the Executive Council, has retired after 6 years.

His concern for disabled people stems from the time he drove an ambulance and saw the limited lives of his passengers. Later he became chairman of the North London Spastics Society and then chairman of the London Regional Committee.

His main interest has been developing "meaningful" employment for disabled people. He has chaired the task force on employment.

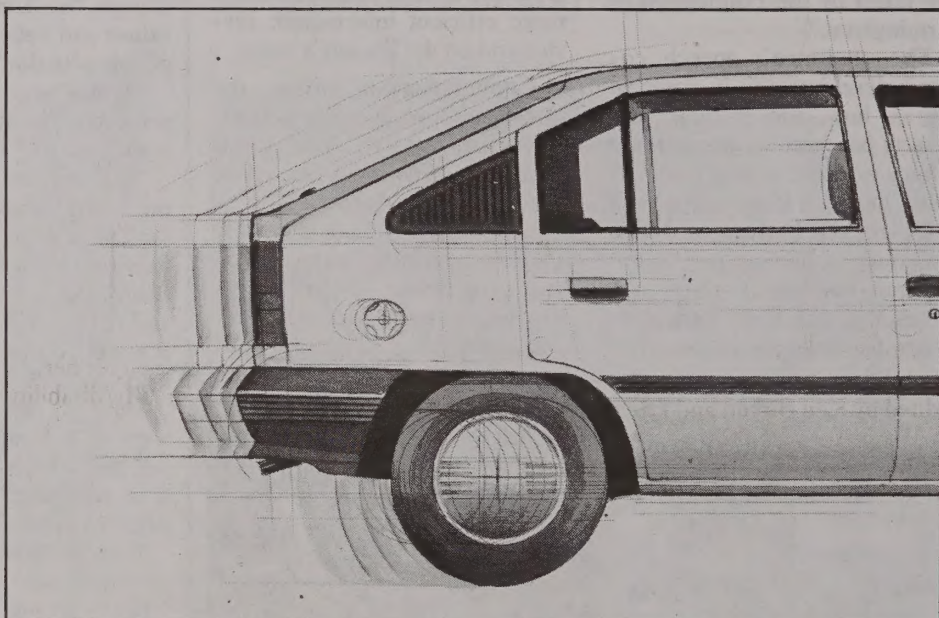
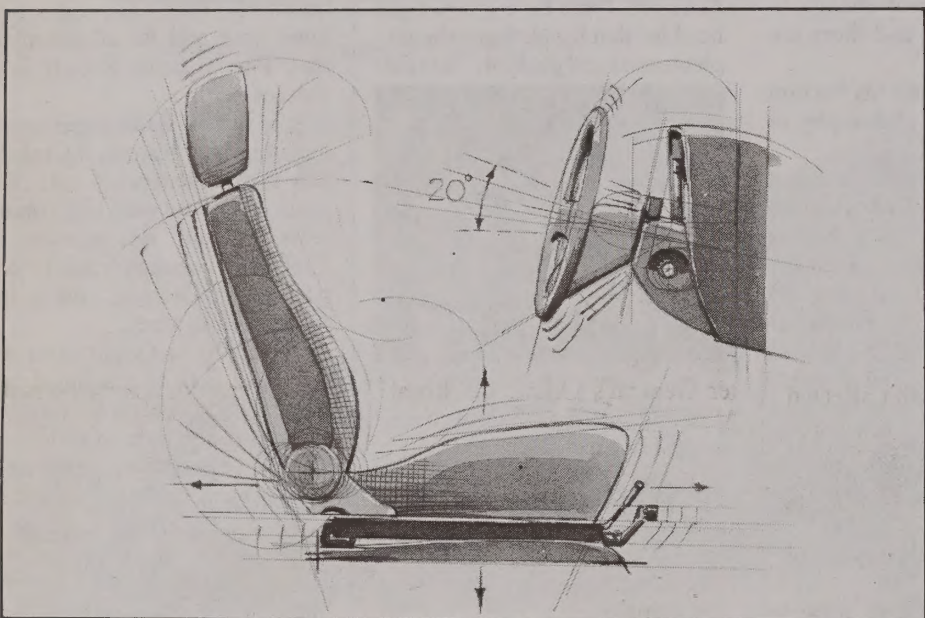
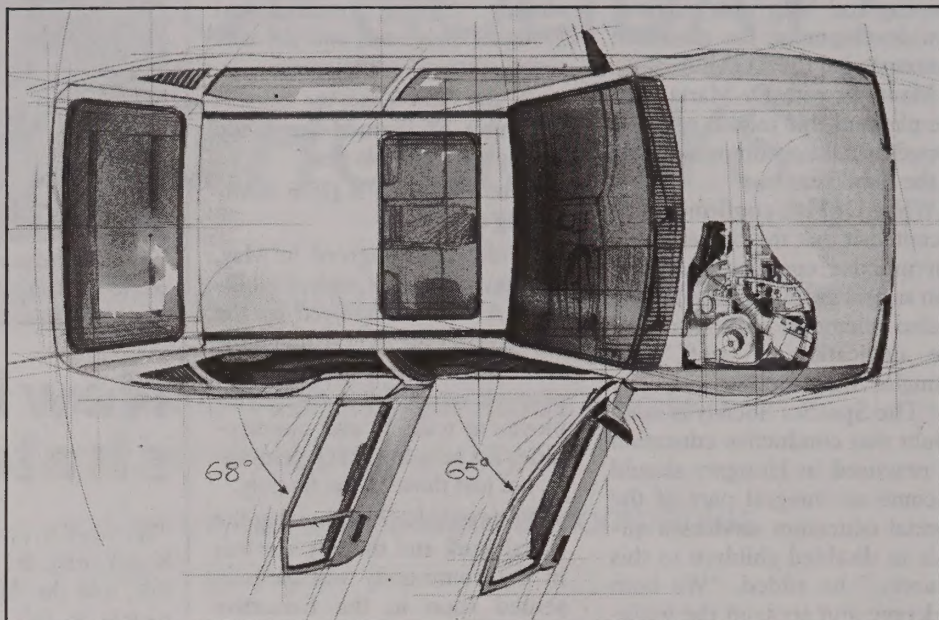
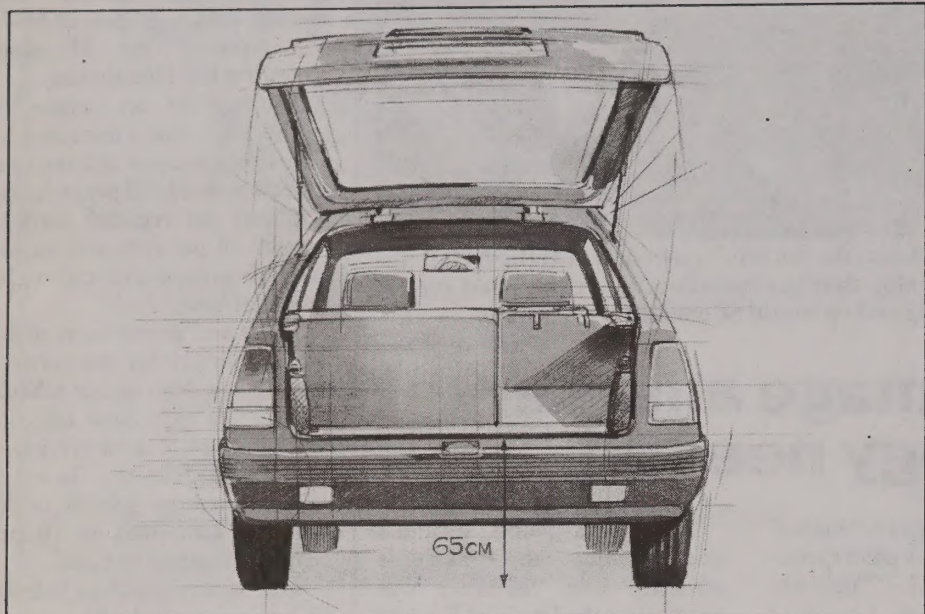
The Islington Exchange Scheme (TIES) Development Worker 20 hrs p.w. £7,163 p.a. (incl.)

TIES is a volunteer scheme bringing together people with and without disabilities to share interests and to help each other in practical ways. A development worker is needed to recruit more volunteers, publicise the scheme and expand our work in the borough. Publicity skills are essential, as is the ability to develop services relevant to the varied ethnic minority communities in the borough. TIES is part of Islington Disabling Association.

Our offices are fully accessible and we particularly welcome applications from people with disabilities.

Further details from IDA, 90-92 Upper Street, London N1 0NP. Tel: 01-226 0137. Closing date 19th December.

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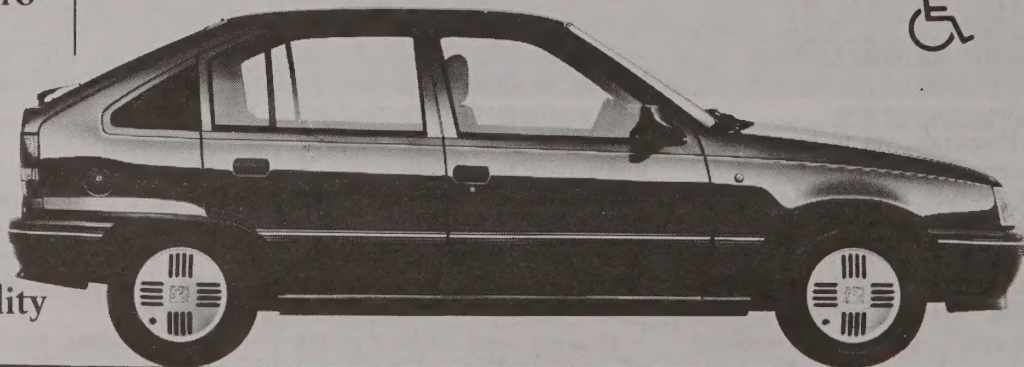
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Databank helps graduates and employers

The Disabled Graduates Careers Information Service is a charity which gives a comprehensive careers service to graduates with disabilities.

It has recently moved from Nottingham University to Hereford College, Coventry, which provides assessments and training courses for people with disabilities.

The DGCIS, which is run by disabled staff, has a computer databank of 750 graduates, with a range of disabilities, in open employment. It can help disabled students thinking about careers, unemployed graduates, or employers who want to take on someone disabled and would like to find out how others have managed.

Unemployed disabled graduates or students can join the job vacancy list and receive details of openings with employers keen to

take on disabled people. About 150 people are on this list.

It is now also working closely with the National Federation of Access Centres, based at Hereford, to get a national network of assessment and training centres and offer a more localised job vacancy information service.

The two organisations are now running employment-seeking skills training days for unemployed disabled graduates.

Awareness training days for managers, personnel professionals and supervisors are also being arranged.

The DGCIS's funding runs out in June 1989. A £1 million fundraising campaign, spearheaded by a new brochure, is launched this month.

DGCIS, Hereward College, Tile Hill Lane, Coventry CV4 9SW, tel: (0203) 694302.

Useful books

Getting on with Disabilities: An Employer's Guide is a new book, launched last month, which provides practical answers to the common questions employers ask when they take on a disabled employee.

It is packed with information on legislation, provision for adaptations and training, and other assistance, and includes case studies, done by Outset, with employees with a wide range of disabilities.

Edited by Ken Birkett and Dianah Worman and published by the Institute of Personnel Management, it is available from IPM House, Camp Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4UW. £10.69 for IPM members,

£13.08 for non-members.

Fitness for Work – the Medical Aspects, will help tackle the question of whether a disabled person is suitable for a certain job and what limitations they might face in employment.

It outlines the implications for work of different medical conditions, from heart disease and diabetes to back pain, AIDS and epilepsy.

It was put together jointly by the Royal College of Physicians and the Faculty of Occupational Medicine, and is aimed at occupational physicians, GPs, and employers.

Available from Oxford Medical Publications, Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6DP. £17.50, paperback.



KAREN WINGATE

Anne Wyman, 36, has worked for the Civil Service for 12 years, and despite having Multiple Sclerosis has moved up the ladder to the senior (Grade 5) position she now holds.

Anne is an Assistant Solicitor in the Inland Revenue's Solicitor's Department, based at Somerset House in London.

She joined the Civil Service in 1976, age 25, after qualifying as a barrister, and had only been in the job about a year when she discovered she had MS.

Her employers were very understanding, she said, and once she began to use a wheelchair ramps were fitted to all the buildings she needed to get into. A downstairs loo was also converted for her.

"My disability hasn't affected my career at all," she said. "Promotions came when they should have done, and I have even had a competitive merit promotion."

She deals with the civil, not criminal, side of the department's work, such as establishing liability to pay tax. Her particular areas of work are inheritance tax, stamp duty and exemptions for charities – both offering advice and handling litigation in the courts.

It is here that her Mobility 2000 wheelchair, which can climb stairs, is invaluable. She got the chair about a year-and-a-half ago from the now-defunct MSC.

"Access to the High Court is atrocious," she said. "It would be absolutely impossible without my Mobility 2000. If I hadn't got the chair I would not have been promoted because I could not have done the full range of functions for my job."

Anne has not had any problems with colleagues at work – "many of them saw my disability come on" – but some of the solicitors she deals with representing taxpayers are taken aback when they meet her for the first time.

How to apply

There are several levels at which you can enter the Civil Service. If you have a 2nd class Honours degree you can apply to the Administration Trainee Scheme, which recruits twice a year.

If you have two A-levels and three O-levels, all in different subjects,

Come and join us says the Civil Service

Mary Wilkinson reports

Britain's second biggest employer, the Civil Service, comprising government departments, various commissions and councils, galleries and museums, now employs almost 9,000 disabled people.

Yet this represents only 1.3 per cent of the total workforce, and the percentage hasn't changed in the last 3 years, despite a Code of Practice for the Employment of Disabled People, introduced in 1985, and the efforts of the Personnel Management Equal Opportunities division (PMEO).

While the 3 per cent quota is not legally binding on the Government, the Code of Practice makes clear that each department has a "duty" to meet it. Also, when a department is below quota, preference should be given to a registered disabled candidate over a non-disabled one if their merits are equal.

The latest (1987-88) Civil Service employment figures show for the first time the shortfall in disabled people for each department. A total of nearly 11,000 disabled people need to be recruited to meet the quota.

Forty-six departments and "fringe bodies" did not recruit any disabled people last year. Some, like the Northern Ireland Office or the National Gallery, employ no disabled people at all. Only a few, such as the Paymaster General's Office, the Royal Mint and the Tate Gallery, have reached or exceeded their quota.

Furthermore, a pilot survey last year of registered disabled employees in the Cabinet Office revealed that they tended to be in the lower grade jobs.

Clearly things are not moving fast enough.

"We want to focus now on more practical action," says Hilary Jackson, head of disability policy at the PMEIO.

Already there are Disabled Persons' Officers in every department. They have occasional meetings and workshops and are members of a Joint Committee which includes trade unions and outside disability experts. But they lack training in understanding and coping with the problems of disabled employees, so this month the first training course is being launched.

Next year two open days are planned to show disabled employees, managers and personnel officers the kind of equipment that is available.

The PMEIO is pushing to increase sheltered employment and introduce working at home, for severely disabled people.

It is working more closely with disability organisations like the RNIB and Lambeth Accord; also with City University to produce case studies of disabled staff.

Because the Civil Service has so little information about its disabled employees, a marker is now being used on personnel records which will allow the PMEIO to keep tabs on their recruitment, assessment and promotion and pick out the weak spots.

Perhaps, most important, the Code of Practice is to be revised early next year to put emphasis on "specific" action.

"The message we want to get across is that the Civil Service does want to encourage more disabled people to apply for jobs," says Hilary Jackson.



Peter Dennis, 28, who has slight cerebral palsy, is an Administrative Officer in the Land Registry Office in Plymouth.

He joined three years ago as an Administrative Assistant, and was promoted last year.

Peter has a diploma in book-keeping from St Loy's College in Exeter, and his previous work experience included a year on a part-time YTS scheme in a sub-post office and three years working for a company that made garden gnomes.

When the company folded in 1985, Peter was unemployed for six months. He sent off 600 job applications before landing the Land Registry job, which he saw advertised in a local paper.

He is employed through the Sheltered Placement Scheme, whereby about 25 per cent of his salary is paid by Devon County Council.

"My employers know all my capabilities and they are pushing me ahead all the time, giving me new skills to learn," he said.

Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB or tel: (0256) 846644.

If you do not have the qualifications for these two schemes you can enter the Civil Service at Administrative Assistant or Administrative Officer level. These are recruited locally by each department and jobs are advertised in the Job Centre and local press.



'88 SEOUL
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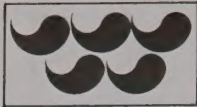
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Electric wheelchair slalom winners (l to r) Carole Johnson (silver), Terry Hudson (silver) and Kerry Taylor (gold) in their Newton Badger wheelchairs.

HOWARD BAILEY



Seoul '88 — The

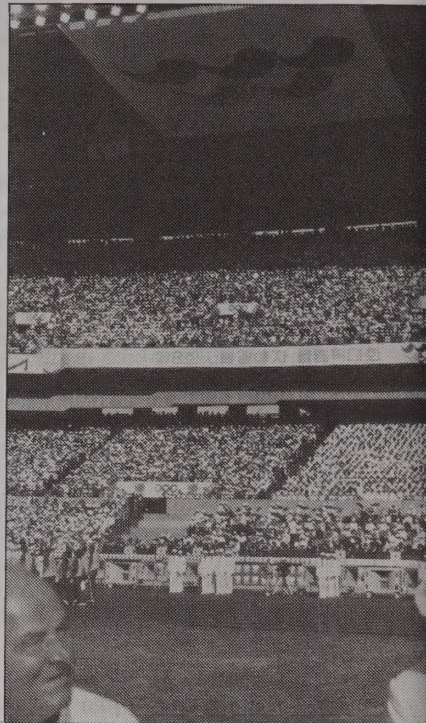
Two hundred and forty two British athletes joined more than 4,000 athletes and officials from 61 countries in the South Korean capital of Seoul for the 8th Paralympics.

Just two weeks after the last medals had been presented at the 24th Olympic Games, and the likes of Christie, Cram and Thompson were enjoying a well-earned rest, the disabled athletes of the world competed in the

same arenas, using the same facilities for the first time.

The living quarters were good too: of the ten 14-storey apartment blocks in the Olympic Village, three were specially adapted for wheelchair users.

The '88 Seoul Paralympics ("para" meaning alongside and not, as most people assume, paraplegic) were the largest ever staged, and the athletes competed in 19 different events over



The Chansil stadium packed with 70,000 people for the opening ceremony of the Paralympics.

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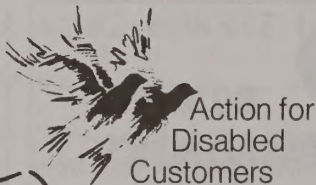
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Mark Farnell (r), who is partially sighted, returned to Britain to pick up his personal best prize. He was congratulated by Kriss Akabusi (l), who is wearing one of Mark's medals. Mark proved his personal marathon best time.



Linda Walters, Joanne Rounds, Young, Diane Barr (l to r), double gold medalists for the 4 x 100 metres freestyle relay.

Best games ever

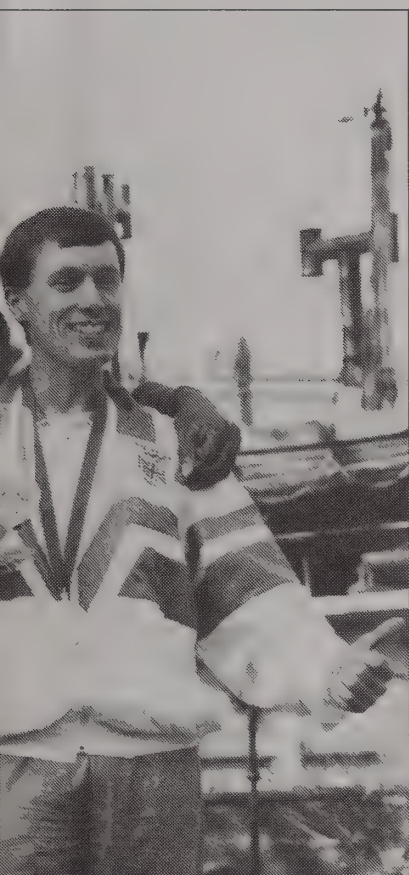


the ten days from 15-25 October.

The British team in Seoul was split into the main disability groups – Blind, Amputees, Les Autres, Cerebral Palsy (CP) and Paraplegic/Tetraplegic (wheelchair sports), and these groups were further subdivided according to severity of disablement.

But when the team entered the Chamsil Stadium for the opening ceremony there was only “one” British Paralympic Team. Led in by blind middle distance runner Bob Matthews, who carried the Union Jack, they saw and heard an Olympic Stadium filled with over 70,000 people for the most spectacular and colourful ceremony ever staged at the Paralympics.

In a ceremony which was almost identical to the one for the Olympics, the South Koreans showed off their style, culture and imagination, with special dances performed by Korean athletes in wheelchairs.



won two silver medals in Seoul, and Adidas Runner of the Year. He is a Paralympic team member, who is up running six years ago and improved to 2:32.

The Paralympic torch made its way into the Olympic Stadium and around the track, carried by a Korean athlete from each of the disability groups.

A blind Korean athlete accompanied by a gold medalist from the Olympic games received the torch and was raised in a lift to light the Paralympic Flame. As the flame burst into life to symbolise the opening of the 8th Paralympics, five jets flew over the stadium with the Olympic colours streaming from their tails.

On the first day of the games, Britain's first medal was won by Isabel Barr – a silver in the Tetraplegic shotput. She went on to win the class 1B discus.

In the high jump for amputees (class A6), Nigel Coultas put in a gold medal-winning performance of 1.91m, breaking the world record. Nigel made it a

hat-trick with wins in the 100m and 200m sprints.

Bob Matthews and his guide Stephen James proved too good for the competition in the middle distance events for the totally blind, repeating his achievement of four years ago in winning the 800m, 1500m and 5000m.

Final medals table

(Leading positions)

	G	S	B	Total
United States	92	91	85	268
West Germany	77	64	48	189
Britain	62	66	51	179
Canada	54	42	57	153
France	45	48	49	142
Sweden	42	38	22	102
South Korea	40	35	19	94
Netherlands	30	23	29	82
Denmark	25	18	22	65
Australia	23	34	37	94
Poland	22	25	34	81
Soviet Union	21	19	15	55

Tetraplegic Peter Curuthers, who designs his own racing wheelchairs, won gold in the class 1B 100m and was inside the previous world record.

In the field events, Mike Walker won all his events in the CP class 4: club, discus, javelin and shotput. Ian Hayden won the discus and javelin golds along with a silver for the shot (Les Autres class). Britain's paraplegic field eventers won silvers in the class 2 discus (Kevin McNicholas), the class 5 discus (John Harris) and the class 5 shotput (Ernie Guild).

Britain's only success in the fencing came in the womens' Epee, when Caz Walton won all her matches to take the gold. There was delight and surprise for Susanah Rockett when she discovered after the mathematics had been done that she had won the bronze medal.

In the shooting, Di Coates won the class 2-6, scoring 381 out of 400. Mike Langley defeated Michael White of Ireland in the final of the snooker and Maurice Job of Britain was third.

The table tennis team event saw two C medals in the mens' Paraplegic class 3 – a bronze, and in the womens' class 2, the silver. In the singles (Les Autres TT4), David Hope won the gold.

An outstanding feat of concentration over three days in the womens' Double FITA archery resulted in the gold medal for Karen Watts and with her team mates Wilma Anic and Joan Cooper she picked up the team gold for a “double” celebration.

In the wheelchair basketball, GB had to face the favourites USA in their first match and lost by only 14 points. This set up a match with Sweden for a place in the quarter finals and in a thrilling match, the GB team lost by 3 points.

The team was finally placed 11th out of 18, with the USA winning the gold and Holland the silver.

Watched by the President of South Korea, Ken Bridgeman overcame his fellow Welshman John Gronow to take the bowling gold in the wheelchair class. In the final of the amputee singles, Ralph Foster defeated Korean Shon Ho Joon to win the gold. In the womens' wheelchair bowling, Hazel Randall won the bronze.

Britain's judo players won a set of medals, with 16-year-old Simon Jackson winning the gold in the Up to 60kg class.

The superb new swimming pool seemed to inspire Britain's swimmers in Seoul and there were many medal winning performances in all groups.

Mike Kenny won 5 golds and a silver in the tetraplegic 1A class and Janice Burton won 6 medals in the blind class 1. Supreme athlete Beverley Gull swam 3 gold medal-winning performances. In the CP class 4, Robin Surgeoner won 4 golds (all new world records) – the 100m, 200m and 400m freestyle and the 100m breaststroke.

Britain won a total 81 medals in the paralympic swimming, 23 of them gold.

The last day saw the marathon take place with some accidents at the start of the wheelchair race. Three of the first four home were French, with Canadian Ted Vince, winner of this year's London Marathon, taking the bronze. Chris Hallam finished out of the medals, despite a lifetime best time.

The closing ceremony brought to an end the most vibrant and perhaps the most successful Paralympics since the games began in Rome 28 years ago.



Blind GB gold medal winner, Robert Matthews (r) during the 1,500m race, with guide Stephen James.

POPPERFOTO/REUTER

The highlight was the hospitality and generosity of the Korean people.

The success of the games offers a challenge to Barcelona in 1992 to come up with a games for disabled people which is on a par with the Olympics and provide facilities that the athletes need to produce their best. In Seoul, the comradeship was high but the competitiveness was no less in-

tense than that of the Olympics, reflected in the many record-breaking performances.

★ Special mention should go to Roy Fowler, even though he is Australian, for winning his 76th medal at the age of 68. Having been in every games since 1960, his 35th gold came in bowls. In the past, he has won swimming, archery and table tennis golds.

Martin McElhatton



100 metres backstroke medal winners – Anders Christens (r) from Denmark (bronze), British Martin Mansell (gold) and Michael Quickert (l) from Germany (silver).

An athlete's personal view

This year's Paralympic Games was the first time athletes with a disability have been given the privilege – due to any athlete of that standard – to use the same facilities as their able-bodied colleagues.

It was also the first time that the British Olympic Committee agreed to all the athletes wearing the same uniforms.

Our first impression of the superb facilities came at the opening ceremony. When we marched into a capacity crowd of 70,000, even well-seasoned athletes felt moved by the reception.

The ceremony, an exact repli-

ca of the one five weeks earlier, was breathtaking and will remain in everyone's memory.

While Isobel Barr was taking a gold in the discus on the first day, I was winning the first of my four medals, bronze in the 200m backstroke. My most successful event was the 100m backstroke in which I took gold. Nine days later, Britain's medal tally was 179.

It is impossible to express the joy and hospitality felt not only by athletes and coaches but officials and everyone involved in these most successful Games. All credit must be given to the Koreans. At the closing ceremony they excelled themselves with rooftop

fireworks, laser beams and prefabricated bridges across the arena.

My only complaints are that there were no national flags or anthems at the presentations. “No time” we were told, but the last Paralympics was two days shorter and at least they had the flags and an Olympic anthem.

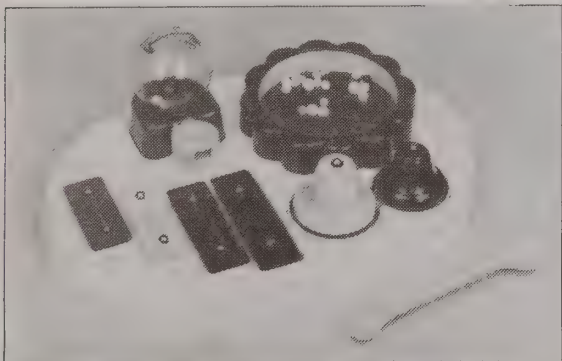
Also, I'm sad that you at home have been unable to share our successes due to the lack of media coverage – only 17 minutes, for example, on BBC TV.

Maybe in four years, public pressure will have changed all that.

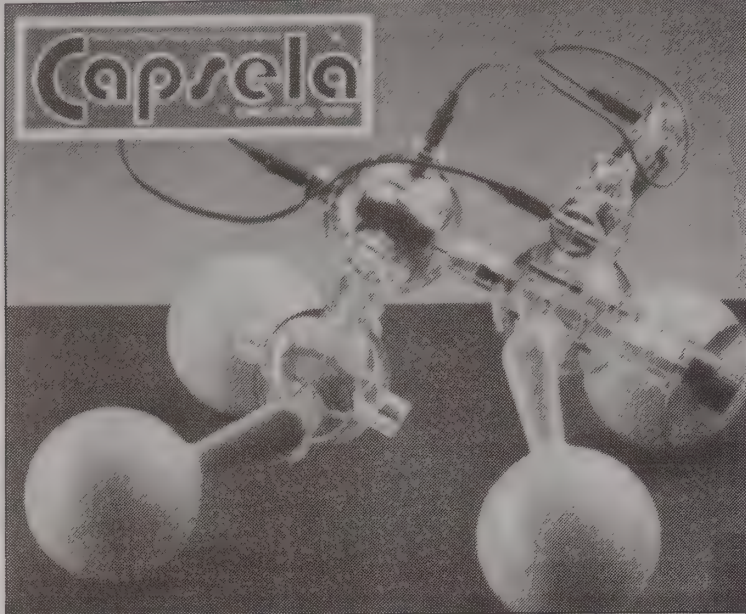
Martin Mansell



The Lost Frog is a computer adventure game for young children (£14.95). They can find the bell, open the door, explore the house to find the lost frog and release him. For the BBC computer, 5 1/4 in disc. From ESM, Duke Street, Wisbech, Cambs PE13 2AE.



Keep toddlers happy this Christmas with the Baby's Rhythm Band (£13.95) from the Nottingham Group's nursery catalogue. It makes a fascinating range of noises to keep them amused for hours. Order from the Nottingham Group, 17 Ludlow Hill Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 6HD. Tel: (0602) 234251.



Capsela is a super sci-fi construction set that children will love. The Junior 400 set (£28.74) can make 22 motorised models. It comes with five functioning capsules and 48 interlocking parts. For ages 7 to 12. Available from Galt Shop Direct, tel 061-428 8511 to order.

Children adore these colourful flashing headbands, from Toys for the Handicapped (£3.50). Battery-powered, they have 12 bright lights which flash on and off. TFH, 76 Barracks Road, Sandy Lane Industrial Estate, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcs DY13 9QB. Tel: (02993) 78820.

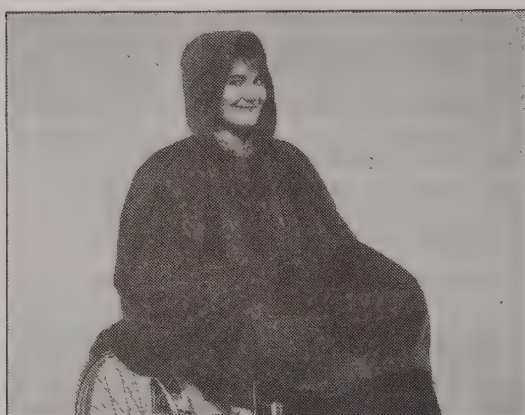


More fun for under £5! Playskool has a new range of textured toys called Touch 'Ems, ideal for young children with sensory disabilities. The Monkey Rattle is £4.75. Available from Toys 'R' Us.

Everyone, young and old will love the Glitterstick – a baton

of clear plastic filled with liquid and glitter. £1.40 from the Conran Shop, Fulham Road, London.

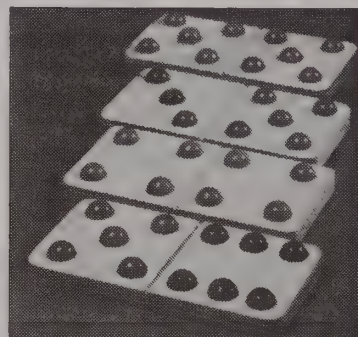
Feelie Friends come in all shapes and sizes! These tiny, textured toys are always a favourite. Around 85p from John Lewis baby departments.



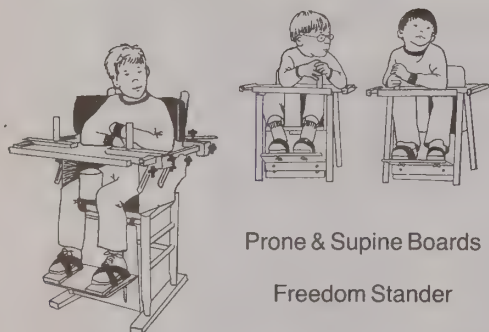
Medipost's Wheelchair Poncho will keep a disabled friend or relative warm and dry this winter. Made from 100 per cent waterproof nylon, with ring pulls for easy fastening, a drawstring hood, long front and short back. Adults £14.95, junior £11.95. Mailorder from Medipost Ltd, Unit 1, St John's Estate, Elder Road, Lees, Oldham, Lancs OL4 3DZ. Tel: (061) 678 0233.



Big wooden dominoes with raised dots in bright colours are perfect for blind and visually impaired people, or for someone with arthritis. £29.50 per set of 28.



The one-handed embroidery frame is a simple gadget which avoids the need for a second hand to hold the embroidery work. £10.45. Both from the new TFH catalogue The Pleasure of Leisure, TFH, 76 Barracks Road, Sandy Lane Industrial Estate, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcs DY13 9QB. Tel: (0299) 827820.



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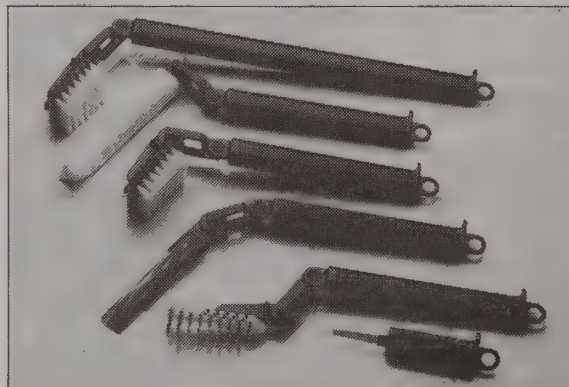
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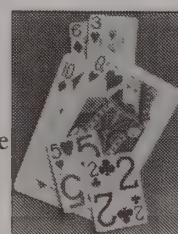
Personal care is easier with this Swedish range of products with straight, easy-to-hold handles. Extra-long bath brush £12.85, bath brush and flannel £11.45, comb £8.95, hairbrush £13.80, nailfile £4.55. From the Keep Able mailorder catalogue, Fleming Close, Park Farm, Wellingborough, Northants. Tel: (0933) 679426.

Cheap and cheerful

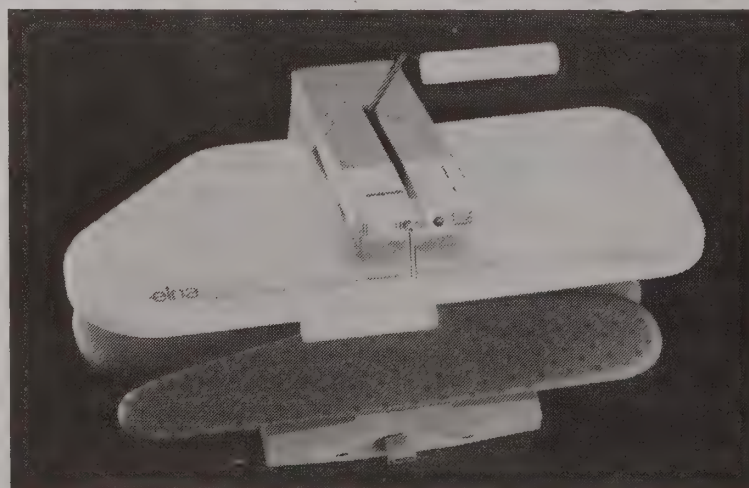
Large number playing cards (right) from Keep Able are ideal for visually impaired people. £2.76. For address see below left.

The Reach-a-Switch fits onto any flat-faced light switch and lowers the operating height by 15 inches – handy for wheelchair users. £2.99 plus 50p p&p, from Gidgee Gadgets, PO Box 1035, Redditch, Worcs. Tel: (0527) 63754.

Laundry Maid Gift Tokens come in units of £5, redeemable at most domestic laundries. Phone 01-863 9178 or send a cheque to the Laundry Information Bureau, 7 Churchill Court, 58 Station Road, North Harrow.

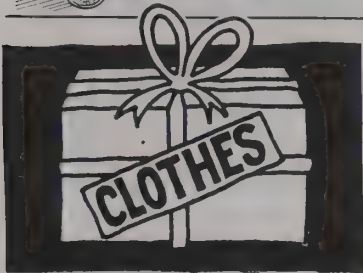


Merle Davies of The Spastics Society gave the thumbs up to this new ironing board from Elnapress 2000. It can be used from a sitting position with the minimum of effort by operating two levers and will iron anything from duvet covers to napkins. It keeps jumpers in shape, puts folds in trousers and can even handle pleated skirts. It's portable, weighs 26 lbs and can be mounted on any table. A luxury present at £399, but special credit terms are available to disabled DN readers from Fast Systems Ltd, 54 Friday Street, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 1AH. Tel: (0491) 572374.





DRAWING BY VAL GEORGE



Putting on the style

Ginny Jenkins chooses the clothes; pupils from Richard Cloudesley school, London, model them

Everybody wants something special to wear for Christmas and that includes young people! With parties and trips out clothes must be stylish, attractive – and practical.

But Christmas shopping can be tiring and uncomfortable, particularly if you are in a wheelchair.

The clothes here come from two companies who are considering the needs of the customer with disabilities in different ways.

Wizzywear is a new mail order company which sells clothes for the child who finds getting in and out of them a particular problem. Helen Parks designs indoor and outdoor wear for both boys and girls based on the needs of her daughter Elizabeth (Wizzy).

All the styles are in bright colours with additional zips and

poppers, ingeniously worked as decorative features, to ensure that getting the garments off and on is as simple as it can be. Some are expensive, but they allow for growth and could be that big Christmas gift.

Teenagers want to be leaders of fashion and C&A have a reputation for offering the right thing at reasonable prices. This season many teenage styles for girls have elasticated waists, while the full, cropped trousers disguise less than perfect shapes.

Boys are equally well served by the trend to fuller trousers and stylish leisure shirts with easy fastenings.

In some stores, C&A now has double-sized changing rooms big enough for the wheelchair shopper and a helper. Eventually these will be standard in all stores; at present they are only

available in new or recently modernised ones.

Many C&A branches, like other high street multiples, are opening on special evenings near Christmas for people with a disability. Alternatively, Tuesday or Wednesday mornings may be less of a crush, when staff have more time to give assistance.

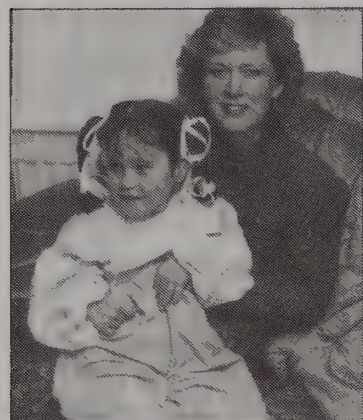
Find out how C&A can help you by contacting your nearest branch manager.

Wizzywear Ltd, 218 Barnsole Road, Gillingham, Kent ME7 4JB, tel: (0634) 5606.

Ginny Jenkins runs the Clothing and Footwear Advisory Service at the Disabled Living Foundation, which gives information and advice on clothing and footwear problems. DLF, 380-384 Harrow Rd, London W9, tel: 01-289 6111.



Danielle Pusey, 14, wears a silver/black-striped polyester blouse (£13.99) with a full black skirt (£6.99). For Kayum's clothes, see above right.



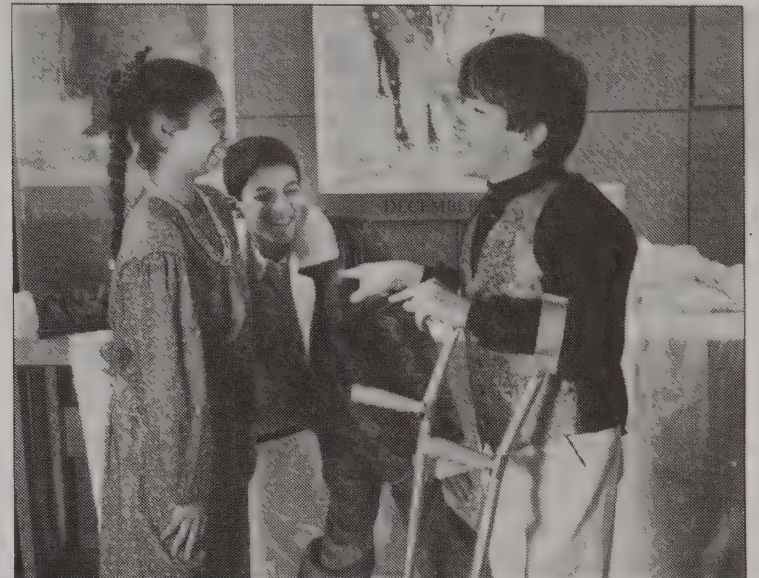
Helen Parks, creator of Wizzywear (above) with daughter Wizzy in a cotton, machine-washable Wizzysuit (from £34.99). For cold-weather fun, anoraks, long or short (from £29.99) and salopettes (£32.50) for boys or girls. Send for the catalogue.



Shireen Khalil, 12, in spotted, navy coordinates, £9.99 each. Danielle matches a black-and-white dogtooth jacket with velvet collar (£13.99) to black viscose, jackard trousers (£12.99).



Yragael approved of the black cotton polo-neck top (£9.99).



Yragael Drouet, 13, (right) sports a silver brocade evening waistcoat (£19.99 from the men's range), over polo-neck top (see below) and cream chinos, (£11.99). Kayum Chaudhury, 12, wears a simulated leather and sheepskin flying jacket (£29.99), blue-cotton shirt (£6.99), cotton cords (£15.99), all from C & A's teenage range. For Shireen, see left.

LEON MORRIS



Shireen Khalil, 12, combines a jade mini-dress, worn as a tunic (£12.99) with black trousers (see left). Kayum's leisure ensemble comes in various colours (£12.99). Jewellery and hair pieces from C & A's Clockhouse range, £1.99 upwards.

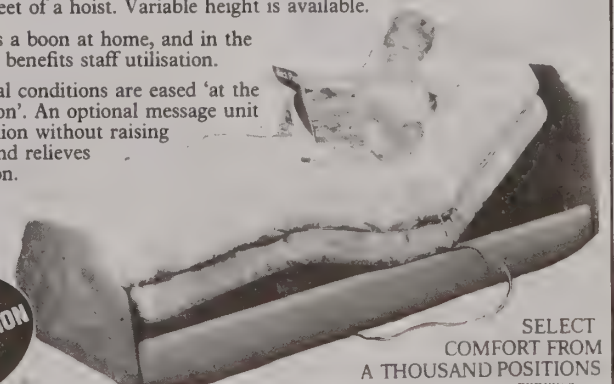
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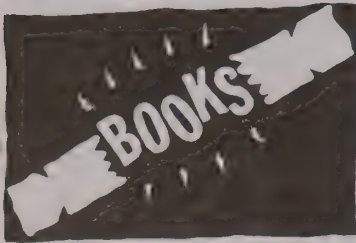
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DN12



An Open Mind

by Susan Sallis
(Penguin, £1.99)

This book is about a boy who's parents have split up and who thinks life is generally boring.

When his father meets another woman who teaches disabled children, David says he'll help out at the school, to try and stop them marrying.

There he meets a boy called Bruce who is handicapped, very thin and light. Lots of things happen to them, and it gets pretty exciting. In the end Bruce is returned to the teacher and is happy again.

The only thing I didn't like about the book was that the writing on the front and back covers is really annoying, the way it says "Fifteen and fit, but fed up", which has nothing to do with the story. Also it sounds very corny.

Quite a good book for younger teenagers.

Clara Wilkinson, age 13

With Wings – An Anthology of Literature by Women with Disabilities

edited by Marsh Saxton and Florence Howe
(Virago, £4.95)

The women's disability movement has raised the consciousness of women's

publishing so that it has begun to reflect the presence and priorities of women with disabilities.

With Wings is a welcome addition to this arena. This three-part anthology of poems, stories and extracts from diaries, from the United States, confirms there is no standard experience.

In part one, "Living in These Minds, These Bodies", each woman faces the physical and emotional challenge of disability with truth, vulnerability and humour. Both their loss of power and increased self-awareness come across.

Barbara Ruth's poem reflects how mundane poverty and physical limitations restrict plans:

In my disabled women's group
The facilitator asked me
'What goals do you have
For yourself in the next five months?'
How many times will my stomach
hurt in the next five months?
How many times will I go to the
welfare office?
In the last three weeks
I've been seven times, and still no
check.

"Seeking Help and Love" focusses on relationships with painful accuracy. Mothers who kept us together, themselves at the mercy of the hospital system are compassionately described, as is the feeling of double responsibility when parents resent the burden of care.

Hard-won independence is sweet: "I awoke at nine and lay there in bed... I could buy the food I wanted, eat when I wanted to... I would choose."

Part three "Transcendence" deals with uplifting endings, when disability becomes irrelevant or non-existent. Nancy

Mairs asserts: "a disease is not going to determine who I am."

Geared to educate a mixed audience, the tone of the introduction to each part sometimes irritates, with statements such as "Disability is more than a physical condition".

This drawback aside, *With Wings* reveals diverse and complex lives and a powerful sense of exactly how far we have come.

Claire Glasman



Mike Jay, with his sister Ann, left, and Anna Carteret

Choice Cuts is a book of poetry by Mike Jay, who has muscular dystrophy, illustrated with photographs by Andy Collison.

Centrefold
"More than a million to be won. See centre pages".
Some of us buy newspapers
To read
Others to assuage
Our greed.

The foreword, by actress Anna Carteret, describes him as a "young radical poet and cartoonist with an irreverent passion that is very attractive."

Available from *Gavarnie Publications*, 41 Legion Way, East Wittering, West Sussex. £1.95.

Under the Eye of the Clock, Christopher Nolan's Whitbread prize-winning autobiography, is now available on 6 cassettes from Isis Audio Books. Running time six and a half hours, price £22.95. Also in large print.

Available from *Isis*, 55 St Thomas' Street, Oxford OX1 1JG.

Triumph Over Darkness tells the story of the life of Louis Braille, blind from the age of three, who invented the raised dot alphabet for blind people.

It was written by Lennard Bickel, who researched the story in Paris and the small village where Louis Braille was born.

Available from *Unwin Hyman*, 15-17 Broadwick Street, London W1V 1FP. £12.95 hardback.

Directory for Disabled People, fifth edition, is the ideal practical Christmas gift for someone with a disability.

Compiled by Ann Darnborough and Derek Kinrade and published in association with RADAR, the handbook covers every aspect of daily life including statutory and voluntary services, benefits and allowances, provision of aids, education, employment, sex and personal relationships.

Available from leading booksellers or *Woodhead-Faulkner*, International Book Distributors, 66 Wood Lane End, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 4RG. £16.95 inc p&sp.

Look out for...

Path Productions will be performing Edward Lear's *The Owl and the Pussycat* at The Jeanetta Cochrane Theatre, Southampton Row, London WC1 between 14 December and 4 January. Tickets £5, children/concs £3. Special group rates. Tel: 01-242 7040 for details.

The **Royal Opera House** has extra wheelchair places for the following performances: 28 Dec & 3 Jan: Handel's *Semele*; 16 Jan: Strauss's *Die Fledermaus*. Tickets £7. Tel: David Robinson on 01-240 1200 ext 384.

The **Unicorn Theatre for Children** is showing *The Meg and Mog Show*, a musical by David Wood based on the books by Jan Pienkowski, from 19 Nov to 29 Jan. Tickets £3, £4.50 and £5.50 (group rates). 6/7 Great Newport St, London WC2H 7JB. Tel: 01-836 3334.

Walsall Museum and Art Gallery 23 Dec-24 Jan, 20 West Midlands sculptors have each contributed one work for an exhibition to be appreciated by touch. Contact Jo Digger (0922) 650000 ext 3124.

Beasts and Boxes, an exhibition of Adam Reynolds' most recent sculpture, is on show at the Adam Gallery, 62 Walcot Square, London SE11 until 3 December.

Artists will lead a one-day "touch workshop" for blind and partially-sighted people on the Richard Deacon sculpture exhibition at the Whitechapel Gallery on 5 January, 10am-3pm. Whitechapel High Street, London E1. Tel: 01-377 5015.



A Dictaphone Portable Recorder would make a super Christmas gift for a disabled student or business person. The 1243 minicassette and 3242 microcassette are both portable and can be used to record meetings or take personal notes.

They can be kept in a pocket or purse at all times, ready to use, and fit comfortably into the hand.

The Model 1243 will record 30 minutes of dictation.

The Model 3242 will record up to two hours on a single cassette. Its functions include record, play, rewind, fast forward, cue, fast erase and reject.

"For me the Dictaphone is excellent. I use it to record my A-level English Literature lectures. I have cp and find writing difficult, and it means that with very little effort I can get down all the necessary information."

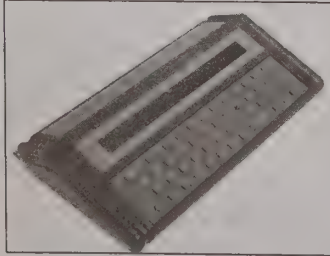
Christopher Lees, Broadstones Hostel, Birmingham.



Usual prices: Model 1243
£113.85
Model 3242
£180.55

Special offer for DN readers: Model 1243 £91
Model 3242
£126.39

To order, cut out this offer and send with a cheque, or postal order payable to Dictaphone, to Eddie Rivera, Dictaphone, Alperton House, Bridgewater Road, Wembley, Middlesex HA0 1EH. Tel: 01-903 1477.



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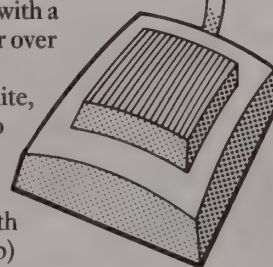
Usual prices: Home Helplite £13.50
Car Helplite £14.99

Special offer for DN readers: Home £12
Car £12.50

The Helplite is a thoughtful Christmas present for an elderly or disabled person. If you need to summon help it will flash the message to good neighbours or passersby from a window of your home. It is battery operated and activated by a simple push-switch which can be operated by hand, with a walking stick or by rolling a wheelchair over it.

For motorists there is a special Helplite, which plugs into the cigarette lighter, to put on the dashboard or roof of the car.

To order, cut out this offer and send with cheque or postal order (adding 50p p&p) made out to Draft Designs Ltd, to Helplite, 2A Unit L, The Maltings, Sawbridgeworth, Herts. Tel: (0279) 726163.



THEATRE

The Beggar in the Palace

It isn't necessary to know Homer's *Odyssey* to understand *The Beggar in the Palace*, a new play by Penny Casdagli and Caroline Griffin, very loosely adapted from the original. In fact knowing Homer's story will only guarantee disappointment.

The play, performed by the integrated deaf/hearing Neti-Neti Theatre Company, is set on

a distant island in 1988. Yet there are anachronisms – the gods of ancient Greece are retained and the fisherman's costume is not up-to-date.

Some of the characters' names are changed. The servants become Hans and Maria which adds an Austrian flavour. But considering one of the languages of the piece is Bengali, why bother to keep the Greek setting, or why not have Greek as the third language?

To add to the confusion the music is West African. If ethnic music was considered appropriate, why not go for Bengali or Greek and aim for cohesion?

The musician doubles up as

narrator, but the narration is negligible which seems bizarre as Homer was from the oral tradition.

As Neti-Neti integrates deaf and hearing performers, sign language is naturally incorporated. I enjoyed the fluid signing and relaxed performance of Cora Tucker and really warmed to her character, Maria.

Unfortunately, *The Beggar in the Palace* falls between two stools: it neither breaks sufficiently from Homer to formulate a coherent modern/feminist argument, nor does it stick closely enough to Homer's text to retain its original poetic and cultural identity.

The play ends very abruptly

and unsatisfactorily. There are also inconsistencies in the script, a major one being the character of Penelope, Odysseus's wife. She is first portrayed as staying faithful to him during his 20 year absence, but then dashes off as soon as he returns! If she was going to leave, surely she would have done so straight away, not procrastinated for 20 years, scheming to avoid marrying one of her suitors?

Tightening the performance of *The Beggar in the Palace* would improve it. But in my opinion the fault lies mainly in the writing and the direction and both of those are difficult to alter at this stage.

Ellen Wilkie



Integrated deaf-hearing company Neti-Neti acting in Sign Language, Bengali and English.

INGRID POLLARD

ART

Touching Moore

Last month the Royal Academy held its first ever workshop for blind and visually impaired visitors, in conjunction with the Henry Moore Exhibition. It was organised by the RSA Education Department.

No detail was left out of the planning. We had adequate "helpers-cum-guides" and a most informed lecturer, Rachel Sullivan from Leicester, who teaches sculpture to elderly, visually impaired people and mentally handicapped people at the Leicester University Adult Education department.

There were four pieces of sculpture and one relief panel to touch and time to exchange views.

Shells, stones and bones were handed to us and we were told how these objects provided much of the inspiration for Henry Moore's pieces.

Then we started our tour of the main exhibition and visited some of the larger pieces. Details of the shape, size, materials, technique and wonderful colours of the "patina" were described for us with enthusiasm and passion.

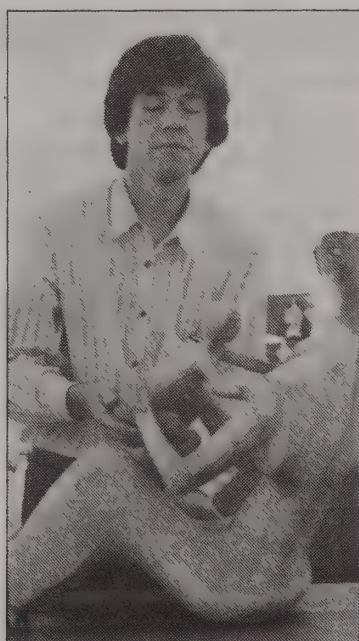
We all linked hands around the huge "Knife Edge", two-piece sculpture, to get an idea of its circumference.

Sadly, the splendid sculptures in the main exhibition were not for touching – it would have been of great value to have felt just one of them.

Later, we put on plastic pinnies and began the adventure of making our own plaster casts.

We had our choice of stones, shells and bones (animal and human) to press into a clay base, and we handled many tools – bits of kitchen equipment, old dental picks, and proper sculpture tools.

Then came the excitement of peeling off the clay and finding the sharp imprints of the objects we chose set in plaster relief. We couldn't believe we had actually made them!



Getting to grips with art.

I also joined the first-ever tour of the Victoria & Albert Museum for blind and partially sighted people last month – I had never visited the V&A before.

Each of our party had an experienced voluntary guide, whose explanations were beautifully detailed and clear.

We started in the dimly-lit Sezergh Room, where we were

allowed to touch and explore its carved oak panelling. Our fingers soon picked out its intricate motifs, which were repeated on various items throughout the tour.

We also visited the three large "Refreshment" rooms, each one decorated in a different style. The middle room had an echo and was lined with wonderful ceramic tiling. Another had panels by William Morris and window glass by Burne-Jones. We weren't allowed to touch them but they were made "visible" to us by our guides.

We also handled various pieces of tapestry. For those of us with some residual vision, there was an enormous magnifying glass with a built-in light. It made each stitch spring into life and colour – all this to a tape of music played on Queen Elizabeth's spinnet!

Gioya Steinke

THEATRE

Big Cat

Matchbox Theatre's *Big Cat* is ostensibly the story of a working class northern man with a lion inside him who travels to Africa at the turn of the century to discover strengths that he never knew he had.

That information was in the press release, and very little was added by watching what for the most part was a disjointed, incoherent and obscure production, written and directed by John Ladle.

Our Hero, Roy (Desmond

Truscott), made the transition from life in an English mining village, where he felt out of place, to army life in Africa, where he eventually finds equilibrium. Unfortunately, the physical and spiritual journey is played like a kind of demented *Go With Noakes*.

The acting of Mark Montanaro and Lorna Bernard was not bad, under the circumstances.

With clumsy scene changing, little continuity and large credibility gaps, the only relief came from German Santana's thoughtful percussion, which against all odds succeeded in evoking the mysticism and overpowering heat of the African bush.

The show aimed to be "of particular relevance to learning disabled people," who made up the audience at the production I witnessed at the Mitcham Social Education Centre.

Staff there said afterwards that the show had "been enjoyed by those who enjoy everything that's put on", but there was widespread wandering of attention and the biggest laughs came from the pretty basic slapstick and (frequent) hollered comments from the audience.

I couldn't help agreeing with the member of staff who said that instead of an actor acting the idea of a lion, the audience would have preferred a good old-fashioned man-in-a-lion-skin, which does a disservice both to people with learning difficulties, who are capable of appreciating much more, and to other, better experimental theatre groups who work in this field.

Julian Marshall

TELEVISION

Without doubt, *Annie's Coming Out* (BBC2, 31 October) is the best portrayal of and advocate for people with cerebral palsy



and their interests that I have seen in any format on television.

Even though I was aware it was a true story before seeing the film, there were so many similarities between Annie's story and my own as a child that I could not have doubted its credibility for a second.

It had lessons for parents, professionals, and any non-disabled person who dares to presume to speak on behalf of disabled people and cp people in particular.

The film should be a lesson not only to drama producers and movie makers, but also to makers of factual programmes. Don't presume. Don't sit in judgement. Let us – the experts – speak for ourselves.

Of course there was emotion in the film, but it was not emotive, and did not play on sympathy or manipulate the heartstrings of the audience.

The same could not be said about *The Power of Music* (BBC1, 26 October). Presented by Paul McCartney, it showed the effect of music therapy on children and adults who are either mentally ill or brain-damaged.

The opening sequence with McCartney talking and playing with mentally disabled children was delightful. But without this and his "links" throughout the programme, the film would have been extremely depressing and not a little exploitative of some of the so-called patients.

Considering it was made by the producer of the two Alison documentaries, it is not surprising that it did not induce empathy, but tear-jerking sympathy.

Grandstand (BBC1, 29 October) showed a 15 minute summary of the Paralympics. The visual presentation was excellent, using the same graphics as in the Olympics. Unfortunately, the commentator was Cliff Morgan, whose overblown clichés and very tone of voice sound patronising.

Out of the Twilight (BBC2, 26 October) looked at the way elderly people are portrayed on television. After previous programmes on ethnic minorities and women, it proved again that when television chooses to, it can take a highly critical but constructive look at these questions.

So far, TV has not done the same for disabled people. For the past 18 months I have been collecting masses of material and conferring with a BBC producer who wants to put this right. Yet the proposal has now been formally rejected by the BBC! Surely, there's a case to be answered here?

Chris Davies

PROFILE



OUTDOOR ACTION

John Hawkrige

“When I do a long walk and it really hurts, I imagine it’s like having a baby. You say ‘never again’ but you forget the pain because the end result is extreme personal satisfaction.”

John Hawkrige, a 40-year-old man from Bradford who has cp and cannot walk without sticks, says he eats, drinks and sleeps mountains. He is currently involved in his greatest mountaineering challenge.

Accompanied by one sherpa and a 5-strong BBC documentary crew, John is doing a 90-mile round trek through the Himalayan foothills. He flew to Nepal on 19 November and will return on Christmas Eve.

Starting from Luglha, at 9,000ft altitude, his goal is Kala Pattar, 18,000ft above sea level, which has one of the finest views of Everest in Nepal.

The route has steep drops so he will have climbed 20,000ft by the end of the expedition.

His friend Chris Bonnington was the inspiration for the trek. He climbed Ben Nevis with John last summer (who climbed it solo in 1974). On the summit he suggested John turn his dream of seeing Everest into a reality.

“In climbing Ben Nevis he put in as much effort as I did in climbing the summit of Everest in 1985,” says Chris Bonnington. “I am absolutely confident he will cope with this challenge. We all have our Everests and this is his.”

John knows the 25-day trek will be very hard. Temperatures will drop to minus 25 degrees or below at night and they will be pitching their tents on ice and snow.

But it is neither masochism nor publicity-seeking that motivate John. He turned down the BBC twice before agreeing to the documentary because, he says, “it is reluctant to portray disabled people in a very positive manner”.

Media interest started two years ago but it is 20 years since he started climbing. “I don’t see myself as some sort of hero. If I really wanted media attention I would take up something spectacular like sky-diving which would be a lot easier. Long walks and climbing are damned hard work.”

He took early retirement from the Inland Revenue because of the amount of physiotherapy he has to do. When he returns John intends to write his third book, and speak about, his Himalayan experiences.

This might help to offset the £4,000 it has cost him. Numerous potential sponsors turned him down and only The Spastics Society gave him any money.

John’s determination and philosophy can be summed up in these comments: “I make the things I can do work for me.

“You can only criticise someone for the effort they put into life and not for what they achieve. I don’t try to encourage people to jump into my footsteps but into my attitude.”

Geraldine Holden

Share Your Problems

with Margaret Morgan



This year I thought I would take the liberty of updating this well-known Christmas carol. So here is my light-hearted offering of what “my true love” might send to me on Christmas Day 1988, and on each of the following eleven days. A very happy Christmas to all of you!

On the first day of Christmas my true love sent to me...

1 microwave oven – to cook the partridge and pears

2 good friends to share the meal



MS SOCIETY CARDS

3

4

5

6

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11

12

French brandies to round off the evening

quarters’ telephone rental vouchers to help me keep in touch

gold rings – always useful for selling or pawning

geese a-laying – a bit of a problem unless you have a big garden, though one *might* lay a golden egg

journalists willing to swim against the tide of prejudice or public opinion

welfare rights officers able to milk the system to get maximum benefit for people with disabilities

MPs drumming up support for the All-Party Disablement Group

voluntary organisations prepared to pipe a new tune, in rhythm with the 1990s

ladies (or gentlemen) ready to dance attendance – called enablers or carers nowadays

lords a-leaping to their feet in the Upper House to speak up for disability issues

Let your Disabled Child ride a PONY

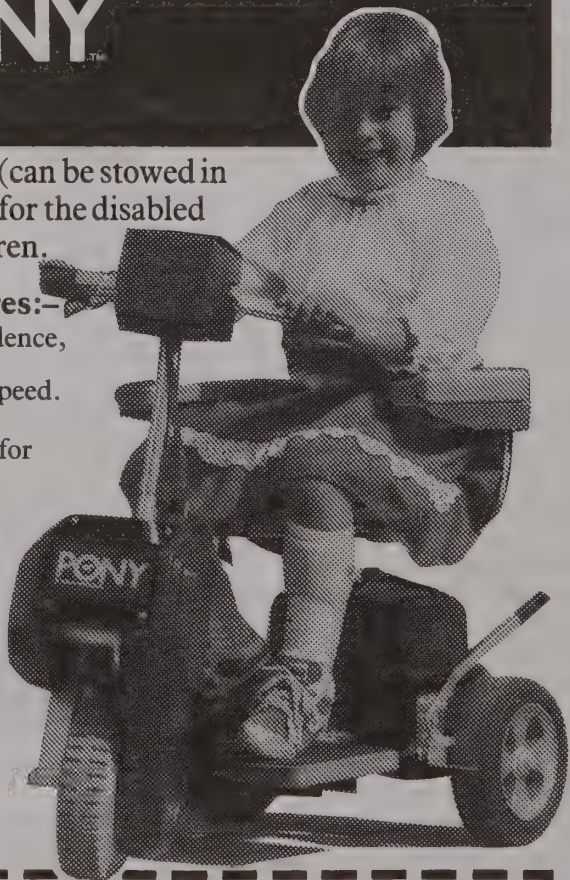
Unique, portable 3 wheeler (can be stowed in the boot of a car). Designed for the disabled child, but is fun for all children.

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Technical data:

Length	25 centimeter
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Height	8,5 centimeter
Material	Moisture and knock-resistant plastic.

The NOTRAX is available for £35.00 excluding p&p and VAT from:-

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Weston Lane, Greet, Birmingham B11 3RS
Telephone: 021-706 6744

INFO

The Spastics Society's new video, **Stand up the Real Glynn Vernon**, is a personal, humorous and challenging introduction to disability awareness and an ideal starting point for discussion. Particularly useful for secondary schools and local government training officers. Copies (VHS) are available from the Film Officer, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ, tel: 01-636 5020, £10.

The Youth for Europe programme begins in early 1989. The Youth Exchange Centre has 55 travel/subsistence grants for one week study trips to EEC countries to promote better understanding of youth in the member states and develop better quality exchange visits. Contact Hilary Jarman on 01-486 5101 for application form. Closing date 16 December.

The difficulties encountered by deaf-blind people is the subject of a video by Sense, The National Deaf-Blind and Rubella Association. *The Gift of Sight and Hearing*, narrated by Jane Asher, will be previewed on 5 & 12 December at the offices of sponsors British Airways, 11 The Strand, London WC2. Reserve up to 3 places from Maggie Mooge, Sense, 311 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8PT.

The Lady Allen Memorial Trust has a scholarship of £1,000 to award in 1989 to someone working with children, particularly disabled or underprivileged ones, to enable them to travel and extend their knowledge and experience of their work. Not available to fund Further Education. SAE for details to The Chairman, c/p Halton CVS, Brook Chambers, High Street, Runcorn, Cheshire. Closing date 6 January.

Help the Aged has produced its annual information on how to keep warm this winter. Available in leaflet and tape format, free from libraries, Citizens Advice Bureaux and social services, or from Help the Aged, Information Desk, St James's Walk, London EC1R 0BE (send 9x6 SAE).

The Duke of Edinburgh Awards are open to all young people aged 14-25, regardless of their physical abilities. The scheme has recently published a book - *A Challenge to the Individual* - a guide to show how disabled people can take part. Available from 5 Prince of Wales Terrace, London W88 5PG.

Corrections

The correct telephone number for Leisure Vehicles, makers of Pullman motor homes (*DN Sept*) is (0246) 851454.

The correct telephone number of the Outsiders Club, (*Share Your Problems, DN Oct*) is 01-499 0900.

The price of Uniscan's Shopper (*Naidex review, DN Nov*) is £115, not £155 as quoted.

Quality Case Management: Guidelines for Planners and Policy Makers, one-day seminar, 12 December, organised by Choice - The Case Management Service at the Kings Fund Centre, 126 Albert Street, London NW1 7NF. Fee £35. Application forms from Melanie Kornitzer, tel: 01-267 6111.

Hoists and slings half-day workshop, 26 January. Pressure sore prevention exhibition, 23 February. Lifting and handling half-day workshop, 27 February. Nottingham Resource Centre for the Disabled, Lenton Business Centre, Lenton Boulevard, Nottingham NG7 2BY. Fees and essential bookings for some events. For details tel: (0602) 420391.

WHAT'S ON

Mobility Exhibition, 16 February, Disabled Living Services, Redbank House, 4 St Chad's Street, Cheetham, Manchester M8 8QA. Indoor/outdoor wheelchairs, adapted vehicles, insurance, advice organisations. 10am - 4pm. Free. Tel: 061-832 3678.

Courses at Castle Priory

Violence towards staff in residential settings - for all staff groups. 13-15 January. Tuition £69. Residence £49. Non-residence £20.

Improving services through team building. 8-10 February.

Bridging the gap - transition from school to adulthood for those with special needs - for staff in schools/colleges or residential/day adult centres. 13-15 February.

The needs of siblings - for staff from all professions. 17-19 February.

Self injurious behaviour - management and amelioration - for parents and professionals. 24-26 February.

Usual fees: Tuition £75. Residence £49. Non-residence £20. Further information from Castle Priory College, Thames Street, Wallington, Oxon OX10 0HE. Please enclose SAE. Tel: (0491) 37551.

"I don't have enough money and I don't have enough sex."



**STAND UP
THE REAL
GLYNN
VERNON**

This 15 minute video will introduce you to Glynn Vernon. A man with opinions and beliefs. A man with a home and his own business. A man who has a disability.

The video blends a look into Glynn's life with an insight into the real issues affecting people with disabilities.

A powerful introduction to disability awareness for secondary school and adult audiences.

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The Huddleston Centre is a unique and innovative project in Hackney providing support and activities for people with disabilities and their families. Begun by parents as a playgroup 10 years ago, we now have youth and unemployment projects, summer playschemes etc., all based in our accessible three-storey centre. We are now seeking a:-

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To lead our team of full- and part-time staff. Previous experience is essential including an understanding of disability issues, training/supervision of other workers and an ability to initiate new work. Our Youth Project works with people with and without disabilities. Salary LA Scale 3a - £14,615 to £15,815 inc. £1,215 LW.

Please apply to the Huddleston Centre,
30 Powell Road, London E5 8DJ.
Tel: 01-985 8869.

Closing date: 2.12.88.

Interview date: 14.12.88.



The Huddleston Centre has an Equal Opportunity policy and welcomes applications from people with a disability and all other sectors of the community.

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Name: _____ ☐ Tick box if disabled.

Address: _____

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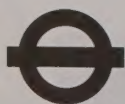
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Next time you're travelling across London and need to get from one Main Line terminal to another, try Carelink. It's an hourly door-to-door bus service between stations with cheerful little red and yellow buses. They're wheelchair accessible and they've got friendly patient drivers.

Carelink is especially for people who find ordinary buses or the Underground difficult to manage (you might be carrying luggage, for example). And at Victoria and Euston Carelink becomes an air link, meeting up with the frequent Airbus services to and from Heathrow. These buses, too, are now wheelchair-accessible.



For more information about these and other special facilities on London's buses, Underground and Docklands Light Railway, call London Transport's Unit for Disabled Passengers on 01-222 5600. Or write to the Unit at 55 Broadway, London SW1H 0BD.

If you would like DN on tape contact Gayle Mooney on 01-636 5020 ext 244.

Share your problems by phone

If you want advice on a personal or spiritual problem, why not talk to Lin Berwick, Disability Now's telephone counsellor, who is disabled herself?

Lin is at the end of the line on Monday afternoons from 1pm to 5pm, and on Thursdays from 6pm to 10pm.

Her telephone number is Hornchurch (04024) 77582.

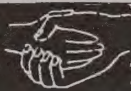
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For further details and application form, please write to: Miss D. Ross, Lentrane House Nursing Home, Lentrane, By Inverness, Scotland, IV3 6RL. Tel: 0463 83710.

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(Community Mental Handicap)

Applications are invited for the University of Exeter, Exeter Health Authority and British Institute of Mental Handicap 60 day multi-disciplinary post-qualification course for community mental handicap team members starting February 1989. CCETSW approved.

Details from:- Dr. Chris Williams, Centre for Disability Studies, Larkby, Victoria Park Road, Exeter, EX2 4NU. Tel: 0392 52079.

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Contact Jan Rubidge, Administrator, Connections Project 340, The Broadway, Muswell Hill, London N10 1DJ. Tel 01-883 8598

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This officer will provide a specialist advisory service and will act as liaison officer in two fields associated with Town Planning and Building Control. He/she will advise upon the adequacy of access and facilities for disabled people and the suitability of the provisions for means of escape from fire generally in and around buildings. Extensive knowledge and experience in both fields is essential.

Computers are used extensively in the day to day running and management of the Building Control Division and postholders will need to become familiar with the systems and be competent users.

The post of Access/Fire Officer carries with it a leased car facility.

If required, there is a full time work place nursery available to all our employees children between three and five years of age.

For further information and an application form please write to the Personnel Officer, London Borough of Harrow, Department of Architecture and Planning, Civic Centre, Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 2XA, or telephone 01-863 5611 Ext 2570.

The closing date for applications will be two weeks from the date of this publication.

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LOTHIAN COALITION OF DISABLED PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

£12,729-£13,902 (Scale to be reviewed after 6 months)

The Lothian Coalition, a self-advocacy organisation of people with all disabilities, will be launched next year. It will represent and campaign on all issues which affect disabled people to promote integration, education and general awareness.

It will consist of a network of local disability groups with an elected Executive Committee. A Steering Group of disabled people has been active for 18 months and this initiative is backed by the Regional and District Councils and voluntary organisations in Lothian.

The Development Officer will take forward the aims and objectives of the Coalition alongside its members; help develop local groups and involve disabled people; and work to the Executive.

Applicants should have considerable experience of disability and disability issues and/or have worked in this field; and will be experienced in organisational and development work. No formal qualifications are required.

Initially, the Development Officer will be employed in the Regional Council's Social Work Department managed by the Co-ordinator of the Community Work Team and seconded to the Coalition. After one year this will be reviewed with the possibility of being directly employed by the Coalition. The post is permanent.

For an informal discussion, please contact John McCurdy, 031-556 9140, or Chris Taylor, 031-553 8203.

Interviews will be on Wednesday, 21st December 1988 in Edinburgh.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE PERSONNEL OFFICER, 7 SHRUB PLACE, EDINBURGH. TEL. 553 8334 (ANSWER PHONE IN OPERATION 24 HOURS PER DAY)

Closing Date: Friday, 9th December 1988

"Lothian Regional Council is an equal opportunities employer and will prevent discrimination particularly on the grounds of sex, marital status, disability, race, colour, religion, sexual orientation, nationality or ethnic origin"

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Interested? ... then make sure you see our weekly Jobs Bulletin which lists all of our current vacancies. It can be seen at all Job Centres and Neighbourhood Offices in Birmingham. Selected vacancies also appear in every Thursday's Birmingham Evening Mail. If you live outside the City, you can obtain this week's Jobs Bulletin by phoning 021-235 3852 during office hours.

Birmingham City Council

The City Council welcomes applications from all sections of the community, irrespective of race, colour, gender, sexuality or disability. Job Sharers welcome.



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Thornbury Hall Hotel stands in 5 acres of ground amidst beautiful countryside. Situated 2 miles from Cheddle in Churnet Valley peace and quiet but close to Alton Towers, Peak National Park, Potteries etc. Specialised facilities for disabled. Companion service available (no extra cost). Colour TV in bedrooms. For full brochure write to Thornbury Hall Hotel, Lockwood Road, Kingsley Holt, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire ST10 2DH. Tel: (0538) 757220.

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Used cars from £3,000. For a selection of new and used Chairman cars contact GOWRINGS MOBILITY INTERNATIONAL. "Travel in your wheelchair in your car." Dial 100 and ask for Freephone Gowrings.

Unwin Quicklift, portable, folding, hydraulic lift. To raise wheelchairs and occupants into vehicles. £320 new, selling for £125. Reason for sale, change of vehicle. Tel: 01-858 7501.

Batricar Beta Scooter, 18 months old, as new, hardly used. Shopping basket, fitted cover. Battery, good condition. £800

new. For sale £600 ono. Tel: 01-399 0751. Miss Fisk.

Wheelchair, good condition, cost £80, will accept any reasonable offer. Write to P Lee, 38 Barons Court, Church Lane, Kingsbury, London NW9.

WANTED

Someone to keep small garden neat and tidy. Owner is housebound with cp. Garden only needs a few hours work a week. Will pay £3.50 per hour. In London. Box No 21.

Physically disabled, single, fully independent person wanted to fill vacancy in adapted Brighton flat. A sense of humour helps. Tel: (0273) 772749 after 7.30pm.



Action on Disability

OUTSET ISLINGTON is seeking to recruit an

EMPLOYMENT CO-ORDINATOR

to set up, develop and run a new EMPLOYMENT UNIT in Islington to provide a centralised Borough-based service for disabled job-seekers and for employers. This is an exciting new programme, based within the successful Outset Training and Office Services Bureau in City Road.

Reporting to the Project Manager, the post holder will be responsible for developing an employment network and for matching the skills of disabled people with job vacancies. She/he will need to establish and maintain contacts with employers and to offer local people with disabilities a full work placement service.

Salary: £13,434 - £14,229 incl. of ILW. LA scale SO1, points 29-31.

For more information and an application form, please contact the Manager, Outset Islington, 393/395 City Road, Islington, London EC1V 1NE. Tel: 01-837 7020. Closing date: 16th December 1988.

Outset is an equal opportunities employer and actively encourages applications from disabled people.

EDUCATION OFFICER

Eastern Arts wishes to appoint an Education Officer (for a fixed term contract of five years, renewable thereafter). The post holder will be responsible for co-ordinating the Association's work in the field of education.

Salary Scale: SO2/PO1 (Points 31-38) £12,729 - 15,417.

Eastern Arts is the Regional Arts Association for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. The Association's work covers the whole field of the arts and includes responsibility for giving financial assistance to artistic organisations and events, and for the provision of a wide range of regional projects and services, including advice and general support to arts organisations in the region.

Eastern Arts aims to be an equal opportunities employer. Applications are welcome from all people, regardless of gender, race, age, sexual orientation or disability.

Application form and further details are obtainable from: Rosie McHugh, Eastern Arts Association, Cherry Hinton Hall, Cherry Hinton Road, Cambridge CB1 4DW. Tel: 0223 215355.

Closing date for applications: 7 December 1988. Interviews will be held in mid-December.



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Mr A Waller, London
Mr & Mrs Willson, Harrow, Middx
plus 3 anonymous supporters

Donations will no longer be acknowledged in the paper.



Hackney Council employs a vast range of people with a variety of skills. And we need additional staff in all areas of the organisation so that we can continue to improve the services we provide for local people. We have regular vacancies for staff in each department, from Social Services to Finance, and work opportunities range from managerial and technical staff to administrators clerical workers and qualified professionals. If you are interested in finding out more about a career with one of the most innovative Local Councils in the capital, complete the coupon and we will send you a copy of our weekly vacancy bulletin which contains details of all jobs available and how to apply.

Hackney is serious about Equal Opportunities. All applications for jobs are considered on merit, with equal opportunities for women, black and ethnic minorities, lesbians and gay men and people with disabilities. Job share applications are welcomed with or without a partner.

Drop into our job shop at the Town Hall and look around or return the coupon, to: The Recruitment Office, Town Hall, Mare Street, London E8 1EA or telephone 01-986 3123 ext. 211 or 215 (24 hour answering service).

Please send me your weekly vacancy bulletin

DN12

Name.....

Address.....



HACKNEY COUNCIL
Working for local people

FIND A FRIEND

Dates for the Disabled. A better life. (5.15pm - 7.15pm). Tel: 01-958 1095.

Disabled Man, 33, seeks girl 21-32. My interests are concerts, eating out and cinema. I live in Birmingham, drive a car and am prepared to travel. I am waiting to hear from YOU! Box No 18.

3rd year Computer Scientist with cp, at Canterbury University, would like a penfriend, perhaps in further education. Preferably female but either would do! Own car. Interests include collecting vintage cars, photography, birds, aeroplanes. Box No 27.

Widowed lady, 50, homely, good sense of humour, loves dogs and homelife, seeks generous man with similar interests, any age, for letter writing and friendship. Box No 24.

Disabled widower, 56, would like to write to female 46-56, able-bodied or disabled, in S Midlands area. Box No 23.

51-year-old single parent of severely handicapped son would like to meet similar for companionship. Preferably car driver. Box No 25.

To reply to a Find-a-Friend advert, indicate the Box Number clearly, mark the envelope Private & Confidential and send it to Disability Now, address on page 2.

THE ROYAL ASSOCIATION FOR DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION requires a

POLICY OFFICER

for its Policy Department, with special responsibilities for matters concerned with holidays for disabled people.

Salary: NJC Scale 4-6 (£9,840 to £13,059)

For job description and application form please apply to:
The Office Manager, RADAR, 25 Mortimer Street, London W1N 8AB.
Tel: 01-637 5400 ext 354.

RADAR is an Equal Opportunities Employer

SHAPE UP NORTH

ARTS CO-ORDINATOR (KIRKLEES)

To organise arts projects with people who have disabilities or particular needs funded by Social and Leisure Services, Health Authorities and Yorkshire Arts, under the Kirkless Partnership in Community Care. Experience necessary in the arts, administration, finance and working with people. Will involve travel around West Yorks.

To commence 1st February 1989 or ASAP afterwards. **Salary £8,500** (under review)

Closing date 9th January 1989. Interview date 24th January 1989.

For job specification and application form (tape and braille versions available) send SAE to

191 Belle Vue Road, Leeds LS3 1HG.
We are an equal opportunities employer.

THE SHAPE NETWORK DEVELOPMENT WORKER

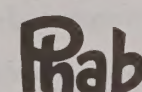
£13,000 p.a.

We are seeking a mature and highly motivated worker, to actively promote the further development of a new network of 12 independent regional organisations working in the field of Arts and Disability.

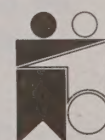
The successful applicant will need: - Substantial administration experience, including typing skills/budgeting/finance and fundraising; the ability to formulate ideas, policies, action plans; to have experience of working with statutory and voluntary agencies; to work flexible hours and travel extensively throughout the country; to work independently whilst being responsible to an Executive Management Committee.

If you are interested in an exciting and challenging job requiring a high level of commitment and competence write for details to: **The Executive Committee, c/o Arts Link, 17a Hanover Street, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs., ST5 1HD.**

This post is initially for one year with a second year subject to assessment and available funding. Location negotiable. Applications from disabled people positively invited. Closing date for applications 16th December 1988.



"Making more of Life together"



DIRECTOR

PHAB is a Charity which seeks to further the integration of people with and without physical disabilities in the community and, as one part of the aim, sponsors 500 PHAB Clubs throughout the United Kingdom.

Terry Thompson, who has been our Director for almost ten years, is leaving next April to develop his career elsewhere and we are now looking for his successor who will, ideally, have:-

A successful track record as a manager
Experience of publicly presenting new ideas and winning acceptance of them
Experience of voluntary organisations and how they work

Age is not important, but it is essential that the successful candidate has the vitality and above all the vision to inspire us all and to lead us forward to the ultimate achievement of our goals.

The salary is in the range of £18,078 to £20,232 plus London Weighting of £750. The post is currently based in Tavistock Square, London, but this location may change fairly soon. The Director will in any case be expected to travel a lot within the U.K.

The job is very demanding but very rewarding. If you would like to be considered, please write for further details to:-

Trevor Owen CBE, Chairman, PHAB, Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HX.
Marking the envelope "Confidential: Director"

PHAB is an equal opportunities employer.

RNID wants hearing aid shake-up

The Royal National Institute for the Deaf is calling for a radical shake-up of hearing aid services for the UK's 3.9 million consumers with lost or impaired hearing. Chief Executive, Mike Whitlam, has spoken of "the deplorable state of both the NHS and private sector services". The new Fair Hearing campaign, which was launched on 1 November, has all-party support.

One in eleven adults has a hearing problem, says the RNID, and the recent OPCS survey puts hearing loss as the second most common disability in the country. One in two elderly people are thought to need a hearing aid.

Despite the demand – and the distress hearing loss causes – people trying to get an aid face delay and disillusionment.

It can take two years to get an appointment at a hospital department (first stop after the GP) because of staff shortages, and then, after referral to a hearing aid centre, there is another wait for the aid.

Faced with an unsympathetic GP many people go to private firms. A fifth of all consumers pay £300 or more for a standard behind-the-ear aid. (The equivalent would cost the NHS £75.)

The RNID says doorstep salesmen often make extravagant claims for their hearing aids, use high-pressure sales techniques and the Hearing Aid Council



cannot uphold standards of trade practice.

The Fair Hearing campaign proposes a faster, more convenient local NHS service, paid for by transferring resources from hospitals to doctors, who should be trained to be more aware of hearing problems. Health visi-

tors and district nurses should be trained to run hearing aid clinics and the Hearing Aid Council to be allowed to discipline private dispensers.

Hearing Aids: the Case for Change, RNID, 105 Gower Street, London WC1E 6AH, tel: 01-387 8033.

Disability Now is the paper for news, views, arts, sports, fashion, jobs, equipment and sharing problems. Order yours now!

Please return this form to Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ with your remittance made payable to THE SPASTICS SOCIETY.

Name _____ (BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)

Address _____

Postcode _____

Disability and/or profession _____

Please Tick ☒ Individual £6 ☐ Organisation £10

☐ Overseas £10 (Sterling)

I/We enclose ☐ Cheque/P.O. ☐ Bankers Order (see below)

☐ A donation towards costs £ _____

I authorise you to charge my ☐ VISA ☐ ACCESS

Account No. _____

Expiry Date _____ Signature _____

BANKERS ORDER DISABILITY NOW ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Return to Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ and not to your Bank.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Your Bank Account No. _____ Sort Code _____

To the Manager _____ (Your Bank)

at _____

Postcode _____

Please pay to the account of The Spastics Society (12729280) National Westminster Bank Plc, Euston Centre Branch (60:50:03) London NW1 3BA the sum of

£ _____ (_____ Amount in words)

on _____ 198 ____ and thereafter on the same day each year until further notice.

Signature _____

FOR BANK USE ONLY
QUOTE REF.
DN _____

Please ensure that all parts of the form are completed and any alterations initialled. Disability Now is a non-profit publication. Receipts on request. Sorry, no refunds.

WE'RE PAYING THE PRICE OF SUCCESS!

IN the last 2 years, 7,000 new readers have joined DN's free mailing list, making us the leading newspaper for people with disabilities. Our circulation is now 28,000. Advertising revenue and donations are up too.

But... our costs have also shot up. This year DN will cost The Spastics Society nearly £150,000. Advertising and donations meet only a third of that.

To keep DN going – and growing – we need your help. In December we are introducing an annual subscription.

• £6 for individuals* • £10 for organisations and overseas readers

We shall be writing to each of you soon enclosing a subscription form.

The good news is you will be getting a new-look newspaper. Our readership survey last year showed this is what you want. So, look out for a distinctive, dynamic DN!

*Readers on low incomes will continue to get DN free if they let us know.

DisabilityNow

Stay with us - we're on the move!

